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Armed cops in schools

Police officers won't be 'hall monitors,' Chief Bill Blair says

Toronto police officers will be in uniform and armed when stationed in Toronto public and Catholic high schools, police Chief Bill Blair said yesterday.

"I do not intend to have my police officers be hall monitors," Blair said at a press conference. "For us, it's not only about keeping the schools safe but about building relationships with all those young people."

Board chair John Campbell said yesterday officers are just as welcome in the schools in uniform as they would be in street clothes. On Monday, Campbell said officers who are setting up offices in more than 20 secondary schools this fall would be more casual and low-key — possibly wearing slacks and golf shirts. Campbell apologized for his misunderstanding.

"They want to establish a level of trust and understanding with students in schools, and if they feel they can do that if armed and uniformed, I have all the confidence they can do so," Campbell said yesterday.

"In the final analysis, we're trying to build healthy, trusting relationships with police. Whether in uniform or not, whether armed or not, having those people in the schools will make a difference."

> « *In the final analysis, we're trying to build healthy, trusting relationships with police.* »
> *Board chair John Campbell*

While Blair yesterday was tight-lipped about details of exactly how officers will work and interact with staff and students, he did say he looks forward to staffing as many schools as possible — and was firm about the uniform and guns.

"Quite frankly, as you can probably guess by my constant appearance, I believe in police officers in uniform. I want the people of Toronto to see their police. I want them to have a relationship with the entire police service that's based on trust and respect. And my police officers are armed."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Class of 2008

Emily Huo comes forward to get her diploma from principal Catherine Fielding yesterday during the kindergarten class graduation at St. Marguerite Bourgeoya Catholic School.

Millionaires multiplying

Add an extra zero to the ranks of the millionaires club.

The number of people around the world with at least $1 million reached 10.1 million for the first time last year, according to a new report. And their bank accounts are growing even faster.

The combined wealth of the globe's millionaires grew to $40.7 trillion last year, an increase of 9 per cent from a year before, Merrill Lynch & Co. and consulting firm Capgemini Group said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talent draining from Canada: Poll

A large majority of domestic employers say governments and businesses are not doing enough to stop the talent drain to foreign countries, nor to attract skilled workers into the country, a new Manpower Canada survey has found.

In the survey of 453 employers, 83 per cent said governments and businesses are not doing enough to slow the outward migration of talent or attract skilled workers from abroad, although only 19 per cent said it was a concern at present.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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toronto

Three Durham Region women were arrested after going on an alleged drunken car chase with a four-year-old boy strapped in the back seat. Police credited an Oshawa couple for the safe end to the potentially deadly situation. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Citytv
HD 519 ROGERS

inside metro

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Paris refutes rumours that she threw a fit over puppy on sale.
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in tomorrow's metro

food
Pick up a great recipe for Slow Cooked Smoky Back Ribs to enjoy on your Canada Day weekend.

Mayor under pressure

Vaughan council going ahead with charges

Vaughan city council has voted unanimously to go ahead with laying charges against Mayor Linda Jackson on campaign finance irregularities — which, if upheld by a judge, could lead to her dismissal from office.

The decision to "institute the laying of charges against Jackson" was announced yesterday afternoon after a four-hour closed-door meeting — absent Jackson — following legal advice from Timothy Wilkin, a well-known Kingston lawyer and expert in municipal law.

It's been a little more than a year since the beleaguered Jackson issued a strongly worded statement saying that allegations she had violated campaign spending limits on the way to her bitterly contested mayoral victory in 2006 were "completely unfounded and without merit."

If a judge were to find Jackson guilty of violating campaign spending limits under the Municipal Elections Act, she would face automatic removal from office.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Linda Jackson at Vaughan council yesterday.

Yesterday, Jackson arrived in council chambers shortly after the announcement and read a brief statement.

"Had I been aware, would I have condoned any of the practices that come to light in the audit?" Jackson said, acknowledging for the first time that the breaches uncovered in a recent auditor's report had occurred. "Absolutely not."

Yesterday's move followed a court-ordered audit that found Jackson's campaign had exceeded her $120,419 election spending limit by about 10 per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

payday loans

City MP pushes for tougher laws

INTERNET Canada is beginning to regulate its payday lending industry, but applying to borrow fast cash online still means entering a legal black hole.

"It seems they are slipping through the cracks," federal New Democrat industry critic Peggy Nash (Parkdale-High Park) said of online payday lending companies yesterday. "It's the bricks-and-mortar that ends up getting dealt with."

Six Canadian provinces — including Ontario — have passed legislation to regulate the payday lending industry but none of the new laws deal with what happens when someone chooses to take out a loan online.

Nash is calling on the federal government to develop "a national legislative framework" to deal specifically with Internet lenders.

She said she expects to put forward a more detailed bill on the issue this fall.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Police Det. Suzanne Pinto, holds up an evidence bag yesterday containing bread laced with poison, found in High Park near Dog Hill.

Poisoning 'plot' thickens

The mystery of the poisoning of six dogs in High Park took two new twists yesterday.

Police said one of the two dogs killed was poisoned by antifreeze-drenched bread that had been left on the ground, not the antifreeze-contaminated drinking bowls that harmed the others. And, in an argument rejected as implausible by some local residents, Det. Suzanne Pinto linked the case to the "recent" discovery in the park of up to a dozen dead raccoons — two of which were "posed" after death by a human being, one "with his paws in front of him, holding a bouquet of flowers."

"There is something obviously concerning and bizarre in the park," Pinto said.

Eight dogs have become sick after walking there since June 16. Six of them, including the two that died, were likely poisoned by antifreeze, at least four from contaminated bowls on the park's "Dog Hill," Pinto said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Court backing Mexican refugees

In a series of stunning decisions, the Federal Court of Canada has jumped to the defence of Mexican women trying to stay in Canada to escape violence and abuse.

Six rulings in the last six weeks tossed aside decisions by the Immigration and Refugee Board. In one case, the board had declared that a 17-year-old girl's kidnapping and rape by the Los Zetas drug gang was "horrific" but wasn't bad enough to meet the threshold of "atrocious and appalling."

All must now return to a different panel of the refugee board to have their case reheard for a final decision on whether they can stay.

surging

» Mexicans in the last few years have surged to the top of the list of people asking Canada for refugee protection, to 7,062 last year from 1,649 claims in 2001.

"Unbearably high levels of violence against women continue to exist in Mexico," a UN report quoted by the court said. "Police corruption continues to be a major problem and many police officers are involved in kidnapping and extortion."

The court used that evidence in the case of Erika Zamora Huerta, who fled to Toronto because her common-law husband, a federal investigator with the Mexican police, beat her and hunted her down in another state. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Student debt can be 'insurmountable'

52% of university scholars will turn to loans: Report

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/TONY BOCK

Krisna Saravanamuttu, 22, a third-year criminology student at York University, is $20,000 in debt due to student loans.

Krisna Saravanamuttu, 22, knows how hard it is to scrape together enough cash to cover soaring tuition costs. The third-year criminology student at York University is already $20,000 in the hole because of student loans. With his sights set on law school, he expects that debt load to triple to $60,000 by the time he is called to the bar. He deems it "insurmountable."

He's not alone. Cash-strapped students will increasingly tap the Canada Student Loan Program to fund post-secondary studies over the next generation, even though the total number of students enrolling in college or university is forecast to decline, according to a report.

The Actuarial Report on the Canada Student Loan Program is an annual report card on the government-run lending program prepared by the chief actuary at the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions. The report provides a financial snapshot of the 2006-07 loan year and includes future projections through to 2031-32.

"Although the number of students enrolled full time in a post-secondary institution decreases over the projection period, the number of students receiving a CSLP loan increases from 345,000 in 2006-07 to 430,000 in 2031-32," the report said. "This represents an increase in the loan uptake rate of students in post-secondary institutions from 36 per cent to 52 per cent."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Council approves taxi fare increase

An increase in taxi fares to reflect higher fuel prices was approved at Toronto City Council yesterday.

Council voted 29-4 in favour of increasing the drop rate to $4 from $3, and the distance rate to 25 cents per 155 metres, instead of 170 metres.

Appointing a representative to the seven-member Toronto Port Authority board was also approved. Locked in a bitter dispute with the port authority, the city has left its spot vacant for years. But the federal government has warned the city could lose its seat if it doesn't fill it.

In other council business, Scarborough's community council has lost its bid to join the lobby group for Ontario's municipalities.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

defeated

» **Efforts to designate Carleton Public School as a heritage property was defeated. The building will now become the site of Toronto police's 11 Division.**

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In Brief

» **EDUCATION** **Retired teachers who come back to supply teach in public schools for up to half the year — while still drawing full pension — are double-dipping the Ontario taxpayer and blocking younger, often visible minority teachers from getting hired, charges a coalition of Toronto substitute teachers. The group is calling on Queen's Park to limit the number of days a retired teacher can return to fill in to just 20 per year, rather than the current 95 allowed in each of the first three years of retirement.**

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ORANGEVILLE
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Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
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Eatery caters to moms

Label will point out restaurants that allow nursing

RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Clare Sullivan, left, holding Sofia, Dr. David McKeown, medical officer of health for the City of Toronto, Victor Polle, holding Nomsa, and Elaine Yuen, holding Elora, give a decal to the Commensal Vegetarian Restaurant, the first restaurant in Toronto to register as Breastfeeding Friendly under a new Toronto Public Health program.

It won't be on the vegetarian menu.

But breastfeeding will be a staple at the Commensal Vegetarian Restaurant as the Bay Street eatery yesterday became the first in the city to officially welcome nursing into its laid-back premises.

And nine-week-old Sofia Smale became the first infant to take advantage of a Toronto Public Health-run program that allows restaurants to proclaim themselves — with a door sticker and on the city's website — Breastfeeding Friendly.

"I always knew I was going to breastfeed and I'm very comfortable with it, but I know some people aren't," said Clare Sullivan, the baby's mother. "Having the sign up is a great way of letting them know that it's OK and that it's normal."

It also lets people who might be squeamish about nursing know they may see it at designated restaurants, said Dr. David McKeown, the city's medical officer of health.

More importantly, McKeown told a news conference, it's a way to promote a practice that "confers benefits in terms of nutrition, in terms of immunity, in terms of bonding with the mom. It is the best start we can give our children in life."

More than 90 per cent of the 30,000 babies born yearly in Toronto are breastfed at the start, but fewer than half of new mothers continue after six months. Part of the reason for that, McKeown said, is mothers can feel intimidated.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man gets five years for selling teen girls for sex

A former Toronto man, who made more than $400,000 selling two teenage girls for sex, has received a five-year prison sentence.

Imani Nakpangi, 25, told a Brampton court he regretted what he did to the two young girls, who were just 15 and 14 when he used them as prostitutes for a 26-month period.

The harm he caused was captured by a victim impact statement of the eldest girl, now 18, read into the Brampton court by Justice Hugh Atwood before he passed sentence. "I feel unworthy, dirty, tainted, like nothing," she said in her statement. "I feel I am only good for one thing — sex."

Nakpangi was given 13 months credit for time served, reducing his remaining sentence to 47 months.

Justice Atwood called Nakpangi's actions "egregious to the extreme."

Nakpangi was convicted May 13 after pleading guilty to two counts of human trafficking in connection with forcing the girls, from Mississauga and Brampton, into prostitution.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **HIV** A Brampton man has been charged with failing to disclose his positive HIV status to a woman with whom he had sex. Peel police say a man put a 21-year-old woman at risk of contracting the virus when they had sex in January and February. Yonatan Gezahegne Mekonnen, 24, is charged with two counts of aggravated sexual assault.

» **CHARGES** A 40-year-old man has been charged with the murder of his father. The body of Donald Cuthbertson, 74, was discovered in a Pharmacy Avenue apartment after police received an emergency call just after 1:30 a.m. Monday. Donald Cuthbertson Jr. faces a second-degree murder charge.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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canada

The two-week-old baby beluga whale born at the Vancouver Aquarium is being treated for an infection near her tail. Aquarium staff say the calf is still nursing but she has been acting listless. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper cabinet tweak coming today

Emerson expected to remain in role Bernier left

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is poised to realign his cabinet today to fill the void left by Maxime Bernier's departure from the important Foreign Affairs post.

The shuffle, scheduled for 11 a.m., is expected to be small, involving few ministers and leaving major portfolios such as finance and industry untouched.

International Trade Minister David Emerson, who added foreign affairs temporarily to his duties after Bernier resigned last month, is widely expected to take on the post full time.

Bernier resigned after admitting he'd left classified documents at the home of a former girlfriend who had past links to criminal biker gangs.

Flaherty speculation

» There has been some speculation Harper might take the opportunity to make some more major changes, including shuffling Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Industry Minister Jim Prentice.

Emerson has proven to be a reliable, experienced minister, and is considered a safe choice after the Bernier fiasco.

Junior minister Christian Paradis is widely expected to take over the trade portfolio. Paradis, a Quebec MP, is currently secretary of state for agriculture and his promotion would maintain the number of senior Quebec cabinet ministers after the loss of Bernier.

Diane Ablonczy, secretary of state for small business and tourism, had also been touted for the trade portfolio.

Tory MP James Moore, a parliamentary secretary from British Columbia, is considered by Tory insiders to be cabinet material and could be handed Paradis' vacated secretary of state post.

Harper himself has ruled out a major shuffle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

federal politics

Tories edge out Grits in grading

POLL A new poll that asked people to rate the federal political parties on their performance in the spring session suggests that the Tories earned slightly higher grades than the Liberals.

The Canadian Press-Harris-Decima survey says 8 per cent of respondents gave the Conservatives an A, 25 per cent rated them a B. For the Liberals, only 4 per cent offered an A, while 21 per cent went for B. Only 3 per cent gave the NDP an A.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec **New promenade**

FRANCIS VACHON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Six-year-old Anna Monroe enjoys the cool breeze from the St. Lawrence River on the newly-inaugurated Promenade Samuel-de-Champlain yesterday in Quebec City. The Promenade, a 2.5-kilometre parkway along the St. Lawrence River, is a gift from the government of Quebec to Quebec City on its 400th birthday.

Terror trial hears of funding

Momin Khawaja attended a terrorist training camp in northern Pakistan with the ringleader of a British bomb plot and offered him money to help "the brothers," says a one-time al Qaeda operative.

Mohammed Babar, the prosecution's star witness at Khawaja's terrorism trial, testified he drove the former software designer part way to the camp. The testimony came after the trial judge ruled he would hear more testimony from Babar in spite of defence arguments that prosecutors were exaggerating Khawaja's terrorist links. THE CANADIAN PRESS

»news In Brief

» **PRISONS** A report by the watchdog over Canada's prison system says the death of a 19-year-old inmate was preventable. Ashley Smith died in an apparent suicide in a segregation cell after she was transferred 17 times between institutions.

» **FOOD** Farmers selling fresh produce at roadside stands might soon get a break from what critics call over-zealous government inspectors. Agriculture Minister Leona Dombrowsky said yesterday the policy is under review.

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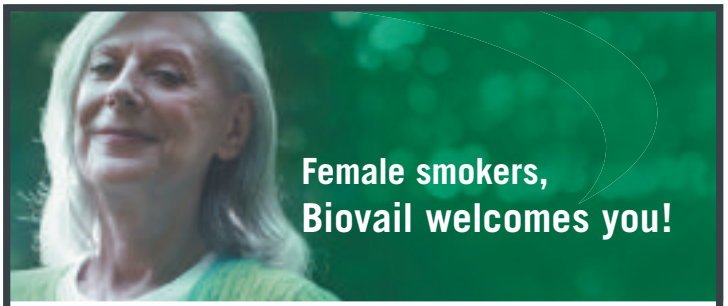

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Lime Ridge Mall
Mapleview Shopping Centre
Masonville Place
Pen Centre Mall
Shoppers World
Square One Shopping Centre
Stone Road Mall
White Oaks Mall

NORTH
Centerpoint Mall
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Georgian Mall
Hillcrest Mall
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Vaughan Mills

EAST
Oshawa Centre

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Calls to ban Tasers

Rights group renews request after recent death

vulnerable people

» Studies have shown that Taser strikes on vulnerable people, including those with drug addictions, have to be further examined, Amnesty International has said.

A human rights group renewed its call yesterday for a Taser moratorium after an Ontario man with a history of drug problems, and who recently lost his job and girlfriend, died in custody after being shocked by police.

Jeffrey Marreel, 36, died after Ontario Provincial Police responded to a disturbance in the town of Norfolk, Ont., near Simcoe on Monday.

In the wake of the latest Taser incident — some 21 people have died in Canada after being shocked by police armed with the device — Amnesty International Canada reiterated its call for a temporary moratorium on the stun guns pending an independent review of the possible risks.

In Toronto, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Rick Bartolucci said the province will not be calling for a ban.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boudreau no show in court

Mother facing murder charges

By **ROBYN YOUNG**
Metro Halifax

ROBYN YOUNG/METRO HALIFAX

Penny Boudreau's defence lawyer Pat Atherton is followed by media as he leaves the courthouse yesterday.

Penny Boudreau was a no-show for her second scheduled court appearance yesterday in Bridgewater, N.S., even after the Crown prosecutor specifically requested her presence.

Crown Attorney Paul Scovil said that "given the nature of the charge" he wants the public to remember she's innocent until proven guilty.

"Particularly these things that are of high public profile," Scovil told reporters outside the Bridgewater courthouse. He wouldn't elaborate further. Boudreau, 33, is accused of killing her 12-year-old daughter Karissa Boudreau. She was charged with first-degree murder in the girl's death on Jun. 13.

$100,000 reward offered in Ottawa triple homicide case

Police offered a $100,000 reward yesterday for information that would lead to a conviction or convictions in the year-old murders of a retired judge, his wife and a neighbour.

A Ottawa police spokeswoman read emotional letters from families of the dead pleading for public assistance in solving the June 2007 murders of retired judge Alban Garon, his wife Raymonde Garon and neighbour Marie-Claire Beniskos.

The three were found last June 30 bound, gagged and beaten in the Garons' luxury condominium. No motive has been determined.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

»news In Brief

» **TRIAL** A soldier who squeezed his infant triplets so hard he broke their bones 19 times has been sentenced to 18 months of house arrest and ordered to undergo psychological treatment. Provincial court Judge Marvin Garfinkle rejected the Crown's request for an 18-month jail term, saying the soldier will get better counselling than in jail.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro

CANADA DAY

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Birthday bashes

Celebrate Canada at these events

SONY BMG PHOTO

Crystal Shawanda will be on stage as part of the New Country 95.3 Sixth Annual Canada Day Jam.

Looking for something to do this Canada Day? Toronto is one city that knows how to celebrate Canada's birthday, and here are a few events going across the city:

THE NEW COUNTRY 95.3 SIXTH ANNUAL CANADA DAY JAM: Multi-platinum Canadian Country Music Award winner Johnny Reid joins Deric Ruttan, The Higgins and Crystal Shawanda on one stage throughout the day. July 1. At Woodbine Park.

CANADA DAY AT MEL LASTMAN SQUARE: Canadian musicians and a dazzling fireworks show commemorate Canada's 141st birthday. July 1. 8 p.m., Mel Lastman Square.

CANADA DRY FESTIVAL OF FIRE: Spectacular on-water series of fireworks choreographed to music. Canada struts its stuff July 1. June 28-July 5 at Ontario Place, 995 Lakeshore Blvd. W. starting at 10:30 p.m., weather permitting.

MAPLE LODGE FARMS CANADA DAY JAM: Canada's biggest free country music festival comes to Woodbine Park in the Beach. July 1. Noon to 9:45 p.m.

ROTARY CLUB OF ETOBICOKE'S SIXTH ANNUAL TORONTO RIBFEST: Get your meat on and enjoy fireworks and live music. July 1. Noon to 10 p.m. at 256 Centennial Park Rd.

CANADA DAY AT THE TORONTO ZOO: Canadian Domain section features free face painting, busker activity and birthday cake. July 1. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 361A Old Finch Ave. in Scarborough.

CANADA DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY: Commemorating the 17,000 Chinese pioneers who helped to build the transcontinental railroad, and honouring the more than 4,000 Chinese who lost their lives during its construction. At the Chinese Railroad Workers Monument, north of Linear Park, west of Rogers Centre. July 1. 11 a.m. to noon.

CANADA DAY AT HARBOURFRONT: Free all-day performances by several musicians, including Martha Wainwright, Plants And Animals, Basia Bulat and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra. July 1.

BEACHES LIONS CLUB CANADA DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL: Kids carnival, live entertainment, and face painting. July 1. Noon to 6 p.m. at Kew Gardens Park.

CANADA DAY WEEKEND AT MACKENZIE HOUSE: Explore editorial cartoons and media influence of the 1860s Confederation debate. June 28 & 29, noon to 5 p.m., 82 Bond St.

JOHN RENNISON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Rotary Club of Etobicoke's sixth annual Toronto Ribfest takes place from noon-10 p.m. on July 1 at 256 Centennial Park Rd.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Canada Dry Festival of Fire takes place from June 28-July 5 at Ontario Place.

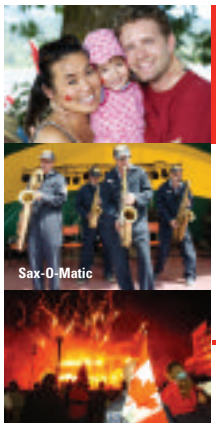
ST. LAWRENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION CANADA DAY CELEBRATION: Parade begins at Crombie Park (Lower Sherbourne and the Esplanade) to St. James Park (via Jarvis, Front, Church and Adelaide). Picnic follows parade at St. James. July 1. 11 a.m.

CANADA DAY, THE MEXICAN WAY: Showcase of Mexican culture in downtown Toronto. Aztec dancers, mariachis and Mexican cuisine. June 28, noon to 10 p.m.

CANADA DAY AT YORK QUAY CENTRE: Blues and gospel singer Jackie Richardson and indie popper Basia Bulat top celebrations, which include dance, film and a kids' party. York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West. July 1.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS AND FUNDRAISING BBQ: Barbecue at Scarborough Historical Museum, 1007 Brimley Rd., north of Lawrence in Thomson Memorial Park. July 1. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. PWYC.

CANADA DAY AT TODMORDEN MILLS HERITAGE MUSEUM AND ARTS CENTRE: Visit historic homes and enjoy kids games and tours. July 1. Noon to 4:30 p.m., bottom of Pottery Road, east of Bayview and west of Broadview. METRO NEWS SERVICES



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DJs spin hip hop, R&B and house at Circa on Monday, June 30, 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Dress code in effect, 19+. At 126 John St. Go to *circatoronto.com* or call 416-979-0044 for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In this file photo, Tom Stewart, a.k.a. Captain Canada, tours Downsview Park with his accordion on Canada Day in 2006.

AMESBURY CANADA DAY CELEBRATION: Music, exhibits, wrapped up by fireworks at Amesbury Park, 1507 Lawrence Ave. W., between Keele and Culford. July 1. Starts at 10 a.m.

MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION ANNUAL CANADA DAY CELEBRATION: Dignitarial proceedings, 21-gun salute and singing of national anthem. July 1. At Queen's Park, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

CANADA DAY AT DOWNSVIEW PARK: Full day of family activities and entertainment, including amusement rides, petting zoo, face painting and buskers. July 1. Starting 11 a.m. 35 Carl Hall Rd. Sheppard Avenue West and John Drury Drive.

CANADA DAY AT FORT YORK: Redcoats perform musket and artillery drills to fife and drum music at the historic site. 100 Garrison Rd. July 1. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

CANADA DAY AT GIBSON HOUSE: Celebrate the national birthday with a journey to the rural community of Willow Dale, 1851. At the Gibson House Museum, 5172 Yonge St. July 1. Noon-5 p.m.

COUNCILLOR PALACIO'S CANADA DAY: Join Coun. Cesar Palacio at this free community barbecue. Earlscourt Park at Caledonia and St. Clair. July 1. Noon to 3 p.m.

CHIN INTERNATIONAL PICNIC, CANADA DAY CEREMONIES: Famous annual picnic honours Canada's birthday. July 1, 12:30 p.m. at the Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place.

DOMINION DAY CELEBRATION: Celebrating Canada's past and future. Thirty people become Canadian citizens in the heart of Black Creek Pioneer Village amidst games, crafts and music. July 1. 5 Shoreham Dr. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S CANADA DAY PICNIC: Event hosted by local MP Carolyn Bennett. Free hotdogs, drinks and live music as your gardening questions are answered. July 1. Wells Hill Park (St. Clair Avenue West, east of Bathurst near the subway).

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Redcoats will be performing musket and artillery drills at Fort York on July 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

HBC RUN FOR CANADA: 10km run, 3km walk and 1km kids walk along the Lakeshore Boulevard waterfront. July 1. 6:30-11 a.m.

STRAWBERRY TEA: Strawberries and shortcake, made the old-fashioned way, with a pot of tea. Take-home goodies included at bake table. At Montgomery's Inn, 4790 Dundas St. W. at Islington. July 1. 1–4:30 p.m.

TORONTO FC: Soccer club takes on Vancouver Whitecaps for a CONCACAF Champions League qualifier. July 1 at BMO Field at 3 p.m.

CHESS OPEN AT HART HOUSE: Chess tournament takes place at University of Toronto. Five-round Swiss in three sections. Prizes up to $3,000. June 27, 28, 29 at 7 Hart House Circle, Debates Room, second floor. *www.torontochess.org* for more info.

RED & WHITE AFFAIR: Canada Day exclusive event at Nava, 125 York Blvd. in Richmond Hill. Wear red and white and receive reduced cover. DJ Danny D and Infamous SC spins house, old school and mashup. Monday, June 30. 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

CANADA DAY HOLIDAY AT CANTINA CHARLIE'S: Booty shake contest at nightclub at 287 Richmond St. W. No cover, guest list available. Hip hop, R&B, reggae, house. 19+, no athletic wear.

CANADA DAY EVENT: Techno at Footwork nightclub, 425 Adelaide St., 10 p.m.-5 a.m. $10 cover before 11:30 p.m., $15 after. *www.footworkbar.com*.

VIVA TORONTO AT THE GUVERNMENT: Celebrity DJs spin into wee hours on long weekend. $1,000 bottle service package available. June 30, 10 p.m.-6 a.m. at 132 Queen's Quay East, 19+.

LONG WEEKEND PARTY AT LUXY CLUB: House, mashup, R&B and hip hop set to amazing lightshow. Dress code in effect. June 30, 10 p.m.-3 a.m. at Luxy Nightclub, 60 Interchange Way.

CANADA DAY, YOUR WAY @ PALAZZO: Music by Soca Monarch, Soca Sweetness. Free barbecue. Admission free. June 30, Palazzo Night Club, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 19+, *www.palazzonightlub.com*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Adventure in the city!
Kick off your summer with Canada Day at Toronto's Historic Sites
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Celebrate Canada Day @ Downsview Park
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world

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, left, spent yesterday campaigning for a presidential run-off in which he will be the only candidate — members of the opposition are on the run or under attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza rockets shake truce

Israel doesn't retaliate, closes border crossings

Palestinian militants fired three homemade rockets into southern Israel yesterday, threatening to unravel a ceasefire days after it began, and Israel responded by closing vital border crossings into Gaza.

Despite what it called a "gross violation" of the truce, Israel refrained from military action and said it would send an envoy soon to Egypt to work on the next stage of a broader ceasefire agreement: a prisoner swap that would bring home an Israeli soldier held by Hamas for more than two years.

> « *We in Hamas are committed to the calm.* »
> Spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri

Hamas, the militant Islamic group that rules Gaza, promised to rein in the Iran- and Syria-backed faction that carried out the rocket attacks and pledged to remain committed to the truce that went into effect June 19 and urged restraint by all sides.

"We in Hamas are committed to the calm. We will talk and we will make sure that all of the factions are committed to the calm, too," said spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

school scandal

No pregnancy pact, teen says

COINCIDENCE A pregnant high school student in Gloucester, Mass., is disputing reports that teens in the New England fishing town made a pact to get pregnant and raise their babies together.

Seventeen-year-old Lindsey Oliver told Good Morning America yesterday there "was definitely no pact."

Oliver says it was all "just a coincidence."

She says what happened was that a group of girls already pregnant decided they were going to help each other finish school and raise their kids together.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt won't reopen border

Crossing closed until Israeli soldier freed

Israel says it has obtained a pledge from Egypt not to reopen its border crossing with the Hamas-run Gaza Strip until a captive Israeli soldier is set free.

Israeli officials say the pledge came during talks between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik.

The meeting came on the sixth day of an Egyptian-mediated truce between Israel and Hamas.

The fragile truce has mostly held, but Israeli authorities say Palestinian militants fired at least three rockets into Israel yesterday.

The pledge on the Rafah crossing was seen as a gesture by Egypt that it would try to gain the freedom soon of Sgt. Gilad Schalit, captured by militants affiliated with Gaza's Hamas rulers.

After Mubarak-Olmert talks, Olmert's spokesman said: "Rafah crossing will not be open and return to normal business unless Schalit is released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

suicide aftermath security threat

AVID OHAYON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, centre, is rushed away by security during a departure ceremony for French President Nicolas Sarkozy (not seen), at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv yesterday. An Israeli police officer fatally shot himself in the head at the ceremony, sparking fears of assassination attempts on Sarkozy and Olmert.

Another levee gives way in Midwest

water damage

» The storms and flooding have forced thousands from their homes across six states, killing 24 and injuring roughly 150.

Flood waters plaguing the U.S. Midwest have proved too much for another levee. Officials say two gaps opened up yesterday in the saturated Elm Point levee at St. Charles, Mo., about 50 kilometres north of St. Louis. That has allowed water to flood hundreds of hectares of land, along with a mobile home park. The 700 residents had been evacuated earlier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

»news In Brief

» **CYCLONE** The official death toll in last month's cyclone in Myanmar was raised to more than 84,500 yesterday, almost 7,000 higher than previous estimates in the horrific storm that drew pleas for the country's insular government to accept outside help.

» **ARCTIC** A senior Russian general says Russia will conduct military exercises in the Arctic in support of the country's claims in the region. Planning for the exercises began after several countries disputed Russia's Arctic claims.

» **PHILIPPINES** A coast guard diver searching for survivors yesterday inside a ferry that capsized in a typhoon found bodies and a bit of comfort – a rosary floating in the water. Only four dozen survivers out of 800 missing have been found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton, right, carries a child in this Sept. 5, 2005, file photo, as he and Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama visit with Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The former president said yesterday he is committed to helping Barack Obama become president.

Clinton backs wife's rival

Former U.S. president Bill Clinton yesterday offered to help Barack Obama win the White House, although what work he'll do remained uncertain.

The Obama campaign is still smarting over some of Bill Clinton's criticism in the race, while the last Democratic president remains a popular political draw. But before the two can work together, they have to speak.

Obama and Hillary Clinton have taken steps to join efforts in the last three weeks, but the former president and Obama haven't talked since the campaign ended.

Hillary returns to her old job

Hillary Clinton returned to Congress yesterday for the first time since suspending her presidential campaign, to a loud round of applause and hugs from Democrats as they try to repair the rifts left by a long, bruising presidential primary.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

high-speed heist

Thieves steal from moving truck

ROMANIA Six Romanians have been arrested on charges they looted goods from the back of a tractor-trailer as they followed it down a German autobahn at 100 kilometres an hour, Dortmund police said yesterday.

"It was an extremely dangerous stunt — like an action film," said Manfred Radecke, Dortmund police spokesman.

Officers, having been tipped off about the gang's tactics, were able to stake out an area and watch the thieves in action last week, Radecke said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHANGE IS GOOD, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT MEANS MORE SERVICE.

STARTING SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008, WE'RE CHANGING SOME GO BUS SERVICES.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST GO BUS SERVICE: New weekday trips between Stoney Creek (Nash & Barton) and Burlington GO Station will connect with Lakeshore West GO Train service. Designated GO parking is available at the Red Hill Shopping Centre.

16 – HAMILTON QEW GO BUS SERVICE: A new Sunday and holiday eastbound trip will depart Hamilton GO Centre at 11:30 p.m. and arrive at Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 12:25 a.m.

20 – MILTON–BRONTE GO BUS SERVICE: New weekday trips between Milton GO Station, Bronte Carpool Lot and Bronte GO Station will connect with Lakeshore West GO Train service.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO BUS SERVICE: We're adding many new trips on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and making changes to some existing trips, including more service to the University of Guelph. Trips starting and ending in Georgetown will no longer serve Main and Wesleyan, but Guelph trips will continue to do so.

37 – ORANGEVILLE GO BUS SERVICE: We're opening a new park & ride lot in Orangeville on Townline at Green. Southbound trips will depart Orangeville Mall, and Broadway & Blind three minutes earlier, so be sure to check the new schedule.

61 – RICHMOND HILL GO BUS SERVICE: A new weekday southbound express trip will depart Richmond Hill GO Station at 8:30 a.m. and arrive at Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 9:20 a.m.

65 – BARRIE GO BUS SERVICE: A new weekday southbound trip will depart East Gwillimbury GO Station at 4:40 a.m., serve Newmarket GO Bus Terminal at 4:55, Aurora GO Station at 5:10, Aurora and Hwy. 404 Carpool Lot at 5:15, and arrive at Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 5:50 a.m.

MILTON BUS STOP CHANGES: Buses will now stop on Drew Centre near Thompson Rd. instead of at Main and Thompson.

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U.S. President George W. Bush has nominated Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, right, to head the Army Materiel Command — the first time in American history a woman has been chosen for promotion to four-star general. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quake zone pandas under threat

Much of their food destroyed

Pandas living in earthquake-ravaged Sichuan province are facing a food shortage and some have been evacuated to temporary shelters because of the threat of landslides and other hazards, an official said yesterday.

Only seven pandas of the original 63 are left in the Wolong Nature Reserve deep in the lush mountains of Sichuan province, close to the epicentre of last month's magnitude-7.9 quake, said Zhang Hemin, director of the Wolong Panda Breeding Centre.

Their usual diet of bamboo is being supplemented by milk and biscuits because so much of the local bamboo was either damaged or destroyed by the quake, Zhang said.

rare

» Only about 1,600 pandas live in the wild, mostly in the Sichuan province.

Most of the other pandas have been moved or are en route to other habitats "because of the threat of possible geological disasters, including landslides," he said.

"We're trying to get them to safety," Zhang said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The Wolong preserve is at the heart of China's gargantuan effort to use captive breeding and artificial insemination to save the giant panda, which is revered as an unofficial national mascot.

The pandas' new homes include the Bifengxia Giant Panda Base, about 120 kilometres outside Sichuan's capital of Chengdu, another breeding centre in Chengdu itself, and facilities in the eastern province of Fujian and the province of Guangdong, Zhang said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIANG KEHONG-FUZHOU/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A giant panda takes a shower near another after arriving at Fuzhou Giant Panda Protection and Research Center in Fuzhou, in China's Fujian Province. Pandas living in earthquake-hit southwest China are facing a food shortage and some have been evacuated to temporary shelters.

Getting off terror list may have price

Japan wants North Korea abductions solved

Any U.S. decision to take North Korea off a list of terrorist nations should be linked to progress in solving the communist country's abductions of Japanese citizens, Japan's foreign minister said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said he would discuss the issue with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice when she visits Japan later this week for a Group of Eight foreign ministers' meeting.

"If the United States moves to take North Korea off its list of terrorist-sponsoring nations, we would like to use it as a card to spur progress in resolving the abductions," Komura told reporters in Tokyo.

U.S. nuclear envoy Christopher Hill said Pyongyang could hand over a long-delayed list of its nuclear activities as soon as tomorrow.

The receipt of documents will start a process that could lead to taking North Korea off Washington's terrorism and sanctions blacklists in exchange for the regime's giving up its nuclear weapons program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sailing bodes well for Japan-China ties

A Japanese destroyer sailed into southern China yesterday in the first port call by one of Japan's warships to China since World War II, the latest sign of improved ties between the rival Asian giants.

The navy vessel with 240 crew members carried blankets, medical supplies and other relief goods for survivors of China's devastating May 12 earthquake that killed more than 69,000 people.

Chinese state media showed pictures of the ship arriving with Chinese sailors lined up on the dock in white uniforms under the two countries' flags.

The destroyer Sazanami was paying a return visit for a port call made by the Chinese guided missile destroyer Shenzhen to Tokyo in November, the first visit by a Chinese military vessel to Japan since the war.

aborted attempt

» Japan was forced in late May to abandon a plan to use military planes to deliver relief goods to quake-hit China after Beijing voiced unease about the mission.

The visit comes as relations warm between the countries. President Hu Jintao toured Japan in early May, the first such visit by a Chinese head of state in 10 years.

But any Japanese military presence remains a sensitive issue for many Chinese who still hold bitter feelings about Japan's invasion and occupation of their country in the 1930s and '40s.

The Sazanami will stay in the southern navy port of Zhanjiang in Guangdong province until June 28.

"Our China visit will not only help us build trust between Japan and China, but also peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region," Rear Adm. Shinichi Tokumaru said last week in a televised departure ceremony at the destroyer's home port of Kure in southern Japan.

The countries have recently been making efforts to improve relations. They announced an agreement last week to jointly develop gas deposits beneath waters in the East China Sea that are claimed by both sides — a breakthrough in one of their major disputes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

long-term debt

Man pays family back 34 years late

GASOLINE An Ohio man has finally repaid a more than three-decade-old debt to a couple of Good Samaritans.

It was 1974 when then 17-year-old Jeffrey Hardin showed up on the doorstep of Violet and Harold Goff in Southington, Ohio, saying he had run out of gas.

Harold Goff got the youngster a five-gallon (19-litre) can of gasoline and told him to be sure to pay it back.

Hardin told the Goffs the debt always remained in the back of his head.

Recently he presented them with a plastic, five-gallon container to make good on the debt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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business

Dollar		Oil	
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Heinz Co. has pulled a British TV ad for Heinz Deli Mayo that shows two men kissing after more than 200 viewers complained. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. economy

Confidence skids to 16-year low

CONSUMERS U.S. consumer confidence fell unexpectedly sharply in June, sinking to its lowest level in more than 16 years as home prices tumbled while gasoline and food prices rose.

The Conference Board's consumer confidence index fell to 50.4, the lowest since February 1992. The drop from 58.1 in May was steeper than economists expected. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Auction creates waves

Bids surpass $4B for wireless spectrum offering

no challenge to Big Three?

» Several analysts noted that no one bidder appears to be in a position to accumulate enough spectrum to build a coast-to-coast wireless network to challenge the national dominance of Rogers, Telus and Bell.

Canadian cellphone users could already be experiencing the effects of Ottawa's plan to encourage more wireless competition even though it appears unlikely an auction of wireless airwaves will immediately yield a fourth national player.

Some observers are attributing a recent decision by Rogers Communications to slash its wireless data rates for BlackBerry devices and other smartphones as early evidence that the Big Three wireless carriers — Rogers, Telus and Bell Mobility — aren't about to be caught standing still as Ottawa's spectrum auction nears its final days.

The auction of wireless airwaves was designed by Industry Canada to facilitate more competition in the wireless industry, criticized for having some of the highest rates in the developed world. Forty per cent of the auction's spectrum is being made available to new entrants only, while the remaining 60 per cent is available to all bidders.

Total bids surpassed $4 billion this week, which is more than double what most observers initially predicted when the auction began in late May. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GM eyeing more cars for Oshawa

General Motors of Canada could reveal more new models for its flexible manufacturing plant in Oshawa this week but Canadian Auto Workers leaders say it won't take the focus off the fight to keep a truck operation open.

models

» GM will start building the Chevrolet Camaro sports car in Oshawa this year but needs other models to make the plant efficient and profitable.

The union confirmed yesterday the company and CAW have scheduled a meeting tomorrow to discuss the identity of future products and their starting dates.

Industry sources say GM intends to start assembling a luxury Cadillac car within the next few years and possibly an "extended version" of the Chevrolet Malibu by 2012. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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*Exchanges of 50 or more adult tickets must be done at the MDP Office – 1900 Yonge St. Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm

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»news In Brief

» **PORK** Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz credits tamper-proof certificates for massive exports of Canadian pork to Russia where certificates are illegally photocopied and placed on other products.

» **OIL** Iraq will create a fourth state-owned oil company to develop massive reserves in the province of Maysan, located about 320 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, the oil minister said yesterday.

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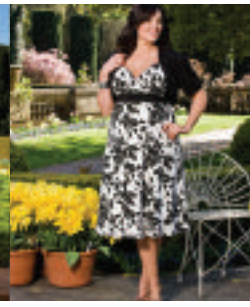
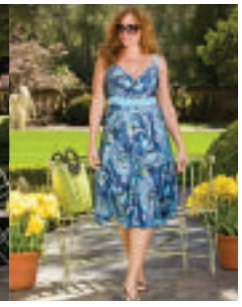
MAXIMUM WOMAN

For many of us plus size women, we have spent a great deal of energy trying to change who we are. If only we could lose a few pounds. If only we could fit into the same dress size we wore at graduation, our wedding day, pre-child, you fill-in-the-blank. Some of us are obsessed with dieting and the next great weight loss fad. Some of us are waiting to live. When I lose 50lbs I'll go on that cruise. When I reach my goal weight I'll start dating. Many of us have spent our lives sitting on the sidelines. You won't see many plus size characters on television or in the movies and when you do they are always the best friend, the therapist, or the shoulder to cry on. They never seem to be the leading lady.





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sports

Barry Melrose, left, was hired as coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning yesterday, returning to the NHL after 12 years as a television analyst because he wants to be "on the inside again." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays charge at sight of Reds

Toronto offence explodes to give Gaston home win

BLUE JAYS 14 REDS 1

The Blue Jays sure came out swinging last night.

And for a change they were actually connecting, too. Often and with authority.

An offensive outburst featuring season-highs in runs and hits made Cito Gaston's first game back in Toronto as manager a brilliant one, as the Blue Jays pounded the Cincinnati Reds 14-1 last night.

Home runs from Scott Rolen, Gregg Zaun and Alex Rios, who hit his first since May 1, led the 22-hit attack, which featured contributions up and down the lineup.

Rolen drove in four runs, Zaun knocked in three, Marco Scutaro had four hits while Lyle Overbay and Rios each scored three times to highlight a boxscore filled with crooked numbers, helping the Blue Jays win their second straight after a season-high seven-game losing streak that cost former manager John Gibbons his job.

They also improved to 2-2 under Gaston, who picked up his first win in Toronto since a 2-0 victory over Anaheim on Sept. 9, 1997. The crowd of 28,153 roared its approval for the man who led the team to back-to-back World Series titles in 1992 and '93, breaking out a couple of lengthy "Cito Gaston," chants.

A.J. Burnett was the beneficiary of all the offence. He fired eight innings of one-run ball, walking three and striking out seven to improve to 7-7. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays catcher Gregg Zaun is congratulated by teammate Lyle Overbay after hitting a first-inning, two-run home run last night against the Cincinnati Reds.

Maple Leafs moving on without Tucker

Team buying out winger, waive Raycroft, Wellwood

The Maple Leafs and Darcy Tucker are parting ways.

Maple Leafs general manager Cliff Fletcher informed Tucker yesterday he would be bought out.

Tucker's agent Carlos Sosa told The Canadian Press the team would officially notify Tucker of the buyout yesterday, and he would be an unrestricted free agent 24 hours after the notice has been given.

"It is what it is. We've been ready for this for a while. It is a business," Sosa said.

Tucker has three years left on his contract and will be owed two-thirds of it — or $6 million US — paid back over a six-year term by the Leafs. The veteran forward signed a four-year extension with the team in February 2007.

Tucker

Tucker's contract included a no-movement clause and he opted not to go through waivers.

The Maple Leafs were busy yesterday, putting forward Kyle Wellwood and goalie Andrew Raycroft on NHL waivers and possibly paving the way for their exit.

"We put them on waivers, we'll take it one step at a time and we'll see what happens tomorrow," Fletcher said.

Wellwood, 25, had 21 points (8-13) and a minus-12 rating in 59 games last season while earning $950,000, the last year of his contract. If he goes unclaimed on waivers, it's expected the Leafs will not tender him a qualifying offer which will make him an unrestricted free agent July 1.

Raycroft, 28, appeared in only 19 games last season after losing his starting job to Vesa Toskala. Raycroft went 2-9-5 with a 3.92 goal-against average and .876 save percentage while earning $2 million.

He has one year left on his deal at $2.2 million and it wasn't clear whether yesterday's move was the first step towards a buyout or not.

One Leaf who appears to be safe in this housecleaning is defenceman Bryan McCabe.

"We will not be buying out Bryan McCabe," Fletcher said.

McCabe is the team's highest paid player with an average salary of $5.75 million a year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NHL

Bettman suspends Anaheim owner

DISCIPLINE The NHL indefinitely suspended Anaheim Ducks owner Henry Samueli yesterday following the billionaire philanthropist's guilty plea to a felony count of lying to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said the NHL will review Samueli's status after he is sentenced on Aug. 18 and determine the length of his suspension.

MLB

Hill told to stay home to heal

INJURIES Aaron Hill's battle with concussion symptoms took a turn for the worse yesterday and has thrown the Blue Jays second baseman's return into uncertainty.

Hill, struck on the head during a collision May 29, has been asked to remain at home and have no contact with the team for at least two weeks.

NFL

Arrest made in Walker assault

LAW Las Vegas police say they've made an arrest in the robbery and beating case involving NFL player Javon Walker.

One man was charged yesterday with multiple felonies and police are looking for a second suspect.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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CFL needs sexy season

YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

Another CFL season kicks off tomorrow night, which excites us because we enjoy the league and have cared about its welfare for decades. But let's tell it like it is.

The CFL hasn't provided much entertainment for years. Oh, the league's propagandists and their attached-at-the-hip shills on the airwaves like to go on ad nauseum about how thrilling their games have been, but take it from a guy who hasn't missed more than five or six in 15 years: The CFL ain't what it used to be.

Scoring has decreased substantially. So have big plays and game-breakers. Conspicuous by their absences have been the dazzling kick returns from **Gizmo Williams** and **Pinball Clemons**, the magical scrambles from **Doug Flutie** and **Jeff Garcia** and **Matt Dunigan**, the bombs from **Warren Moon**, the impossible catches from **Darren Flutie** and **Allen Pitts**, the remarkable runs from **Mike Pringle**.

The truth is that, unless you're fond of defence, the CFL has come up short since 2000. And, with the NFL threatening to invade Toronto — arguably the CFL's most significant city — this simply must be a banner year for Canadian football.

Unfortunately, there aren't many new faces inspiring excessive enthusiasm. There's certainly been the usual off-season recycling, though. The Saskatchewan Roughriders could no longer afford quarterback/MVP **Kerry Joseph** so they dispatched him to the Argonauts. The Edmonton Eskimos acquired the Argos' veteran kicker, **Noel Prefontaine**, after Toronto reacquired **Mike Vanderjagt**, who wore out his NFL welcome. And **Bob O'Billovich** moved from his front-office position with the B.C. Lions to become the newest general manager of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

And there will be four new head coaches, although the Montreal Alouettes' **Marc Trestman** is the only true greenhorn. **Rich Stubler** and **Ken Miller** were promoted from their assistant coaching positions in Toronto and Saskatchewan, respectively. And **John Hufnagel**, an offensive guru who was a CFL QB and assistant coach in the 1980s and 1990s, replaces the fired **Tom Higgins** as the Calgary Stampeders' head coach.

Higgins is the CFL's new officiating supervisor, which is confusing since he never seemed to understand the league's rules in the first place. But let's refrain from picking on Higgins. For now.

For the record, I'm picking Hufnagel's Stamps to win the Grey Cup, I suspect the Ticats will improve while the Als will sputter, and I think Calgary QB **Henry Burris** will emerge as the CFL's top player.

But I'll have a thorough CFL preview tomorrow — including predictions, players to watch for and a look at this week's games — in the first 2008 instalment of my weekly CFL Report, exclusively at *www.metronews.ca*.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	48	32	.600	-
Tampa Bay	45	31	.592	1
New York	41	36	.532	5½
Baltimore	38	36	.514	7
Toronto	37	41	.474	10

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	41	34	.547	-
Minnesota	40	36	.526	1½
Detroit	36	40	.474	5½
Cleveland	35	42	.455	7
Kansas City	34	43	.442	8

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	48	30	.615	-
Oakland	41	34	.547	5½
Texas	39	38	.506	8½
Seattle	28	49	.364	19½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	42	35	.545	-
Florida	40	36	.526	1½
New York	37	39	.487	4½
Atlanta	38	41	.481	5
Washington	30	49	.380	13

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	48	28	.632	-
St. Louis	45	33	.577	4
Milwaukee	43	34	.558	5½
Pittsburgh	37	40	.481	11½
Houston	35	41	.461	13
Cincinnati	35	43	.449	14

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	40	38	.513	-
Los Angeles	35	40	.467	3½
San Francisco	33	44	.429	6½
Colorado	32	45	.416	7½
San Diego	32	45	.416	7½

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS

INTERLEAGUE

TORONTO 14 Cincinnati 1
Boston 5 Arizona 4
Pittsburgh 12 N.Y. Yankees 5
St. Louis 8 Detroit 4
San Francisco 3 Cleveland 2
Seattle 11 N.Y. Mets 0
Tampa Bay 6 Florida 4
L.A. Angels 8 Washington 3
Texas at Houston
Baltimore at Chicago Cubs
Colorado at Kansas City
Minnesota at San Diego
Philadelphia at Oakland
Chicago Sox at L.A. Dodgers

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee 4 Atlanta 3

TODAY'S GAMES

INTERLEAGUE

Arizona at Boston, 7:05
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 7:05
St. Louis at Detroit, 7:05
San Francisco at Cleveland, 7:05
Cincinnati at Toronto, 7:07
Seattle at N.Y. Mets, 7:10
Tampa Bay at Florida, 7:10
L.A. Angels at Washington, 7:10
Texas at Houston, 8:05
Baltimore at Chicago Cubs, 8:05
Colorado at Kansas City, 8:10
Minnesota at San Diego, 10:05
Philadelphia at Oakland, 10:05
Chicago Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee at Atlanta, 1:05

CFL

WEEK 1

TOMORROW'S GAMES

Montreal at Hamilton, 7
B.C. at Calgary, 10

FRIDAY'S GAME

TORONTO at Winnipeg, 8

SATURDAY'S GAME

Edmonton at Saskatchewan, 7:30

EURO 2008

SEMIFINALS

TODAY'S GAME

Germany vs. Turkey, 2:45

TOMORROW'S GAME

Russia vs. Spain, 2:45

LOTTERIES

Ontario Pick 3	6 7 8
Ontario Pick 4	0 1 0 1
Encore	8811721
Daily Keno	1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 18, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28, 32, 44, 47, 52, 53, 64, 70.

Results not official

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»sports In Brief

» **NBA** Shaquille O'Neal will lose his special deputy's badge in Maricopa County because of language he used in a rap video that mocks former teammate Kobe Bryant. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said the Phoenix Suns centre's use of a racially derogatory word and other foul language left him no choice.

» **NBA** The Gatorade-stained shirt worn by Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers as the team won its first NBA title in 22 years has been auctioned for $55,000 US. The proceeds will benefit the Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raps draft plan still fuzzy

Team in search of ideal selection

The decisions were never going to be easy, nor were they going to come quickly, leaving the Raptors right where they expected to be today.

Still deciding whether to go big or small if they make a pick in tomorrow's draft, and weighing a couple trade possibilities, the team's basketball brain trust has much work to do.

Depending on what happens around them, they will have a choice of legitimate possibilities to choose from with the 17th selection in tomorrow's NBA draft.

Ford

Because no one has emerged as a huge favourite of the organization, the research continues. And while the Raptors may not have held any workouts in Toronto yesterday it doesn't mean they were idle.

Coach Sam Mitchell and director of player personnel Jim Kelly took a quick trip to Philadelphia to see Alexis Ajinka, a prospect from France, and Kansas forward Darrell Arthur work out.

There are still debates going on over a possible T.J. Ford for Jermaine O'Neal trade. However, concerns over injuries to both principles is giving both teams cause for concern. And according to a league source, a deal involving T.J. Ford and the Phoenix Suns remains very much alive.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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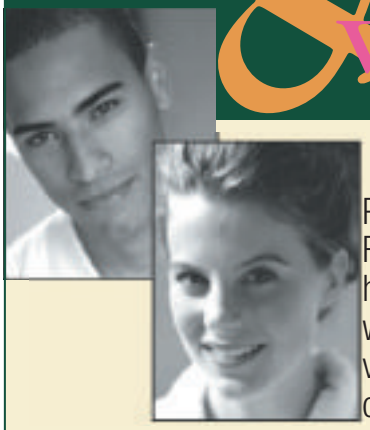

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KRISTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak battled to a 7-5, 6-4 first-round victory over Mariya Koryttseva of the Ukraine yesterday at Wimbledon.

Canadian kids keep on winning at Wimbledon

Wozniak repeats Dancevic's effort

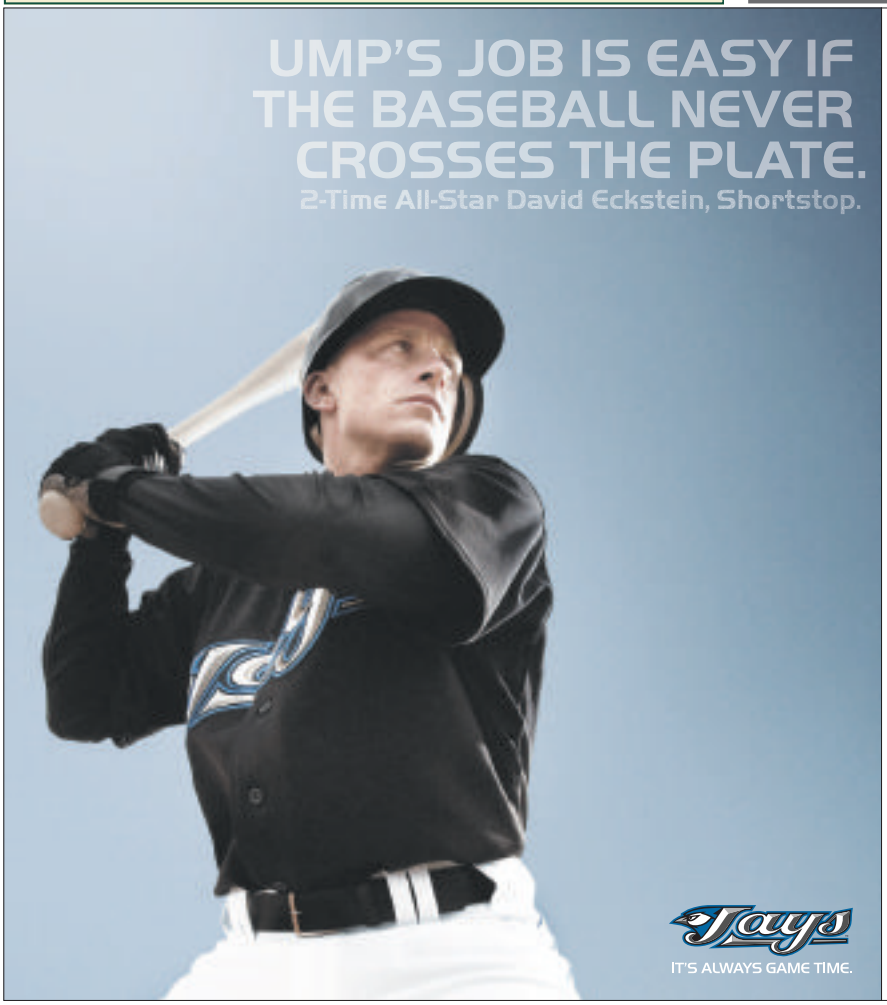
Another day, another Canadian through to the second round at Wimbledon.

Aleksandra Wozniak of Blainville, Que., defeated Mariya Koryttseva of Ukraine 7-5, 6-4 yesterday. Her win comes a day after Frank Dancevic of Niagara Falls, Ont., upset David Nalbandian of Argentina in the first round of the men's draw.

American Venus Williams, the defending women's champion, struggled in the first set before cruising to a 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory over British teenager Naomi Cavaday to begin her bid for a fifth Wimbledon title.

As reigning champion, Williams was up first on "Ladies Day" on Centre Court yesterday as the All England Club enjoyed a second spell of dry, sunny weather on a day that also featured wins by Spain's Rafael Nadal and American Andy Roddick and former champions Maria Sharapova of Russia and American Lindsay Davenport. Fourth-seeded Russian Nikolay Davydenko was the top name to go out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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EURO 2008

Josef Hickersberger has stepped down as coach of Austria's soccer team because his team failed to reach the European Championship quarter-finals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany shows respect

Powerhouse team won't take Turkey lightly in semifinal

MICHAEL PROBST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Torsten Frings, from left, Christoph Metzelder and Mario Gomez keep things loose yesterday during a training session for the German national soccer team in Switzerland. Germany will play Turkey in the semifinals at Euro 2008 today in Basel.

Turkey coach Fatih Terim will need some ingenuity just to put a healthy team on the field when his squad faces Germany in the semifinals of the European Championships today.

Terim's lineup has been decimated by injuries and suspensions. Up to nine regular first-choice players could be out, depending on some late fitness checks.

In such circumstances, the hopes for an upset look very slim. Germany coach Joachim Loew has a full-strength squad to choose from for today's match (TSN, 2 p.m.) in Basel after midfielder Torsten Frings recovered sufficiently from a broken rib. But Loew has coached in Turkey and has warned his players about the passion in Turkey's game.

German captain Michael Ballack expects a "very strong" Turkish team despite the depleted team's injuries and suspensions.

"They know how to adjust to opponents and that shows they are very strong mentally," Ballack said yesterday at Germany's training base before the team's departure for Basel.

"Their coach knows how to motivate them and they will be a very uncomfortable opponent. Hats off to them for reaching the semifinal, but we shouldn't overestimate them either."

Germany has won 11 matches against Turkey, drawn three and lost three. But the Germans have lost two of the last three games and drawn the other.

> *« I'll warn my players that Turks believe until the end that they can win the game. »*
> Germany coach Joachim Loew

After staging three amazing comebacks to reach the semifinals, even an injury-ravaged Turkey will be confident heading into the game, Loew said.

"All teams in the semifinals have a certain class. I know Turkish players and the conditions there from my own experience," Loew said. "They become euphoric, especially if things are going their way. They have national pride, very high morale and they play until the end, the very last minute. It will be very hard.

"I'll warn my players that Turks believe until the end that they can win the game."

Turkey equalized against Croatia with the last kick of the quarter-final game. Having gone behind in the 119th minute, Turkey still went on to win the penalty shootout.

"They never give up," Loew said. "They always believe they can turn it around. Some people did not expect them to come back but they have incredible morale."

Loew said Turkey in a way was a more difficult team than highly fancied Portugal, which Germany beat 3-2 in the quarter-finals.

"The Portuguese were easier to figure out. The Turks are more creative and don't stick to their positions so much," Loew said.

Germany is seeking a record fourth title.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia coach leery of Spain

Similarities make Hiddink nervous

Russia coach Guus Hiddink would have preferred his young, attacking team be playing world champion Italy in the European Championship semifinals tomorrow instead of Spain.

Hiddink

"I watched (the Spain-Italy quarter-final) and you think, I'd really like the Italians because tactically you can work against them. It is a team where lots of people stay in one place behind the ball, but that leaves space elsewhere where you can play," he said after the team's first training session since beating the Netherlands 3-1 after extra time in Saturday's quarter-finals.

"It didn't happen, that's a shame. Spain is a similar team to Russia — they want to play football. But if they go 1-0 up, as we've seen, they drop back and play on the counterattack."

Russia got a good look at how well Spain can play on the counterattack in its first Euro 2008 match, when David Villa scored a hat trick as Luis Aragones' team cruised to a 4-1 victory.

Hiddink criticized his players for making schoolboy errors in that match — in particular, giving the ball away easily and then failing to fight to get it back.

The young team certainly took notice. Since the thrashing in Innsbruck, it has conceded only one goal in three matches — and that was to the Netherlands, which had scored nine times in its first three games.

Hiddink has slight health worries, with midfielder Dinyar Bilyaletdinov, forward Ivan Sayenko and Alexander Anyukov all carrying minor injuries. Hiddink did not elaborate on their conditions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

leading Euro goal scorers

» Four goals
David Villa, Spain.
» Three goals
Lukas Podolski, Germany; Hakan Yakin, Switzerland; Roman Pavlyuchenko, Russia.
» Two goals
Andrei Arshavin, Russia; Michael Ballack, Germany; Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Sweden; Nihat Kahveci, Turkey; Ivan Klasnic, Croatia; Ruud van Nistelrooy, Netherlands; Robin van Persie, Netherlands; Semih Senturk, Turkey; Wesley Sneijder, Netherlands; Arda Turan, Turkey.

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What causes DIP-LASH?

Using ***MIRACLE WHIP*** Dressing to make any dip can result in DIP-LASH. Some of the most likely causes can be found below. Familiarize yourself with these recipes and ingredients and alert your friends and family.

PARMESAN CONFETTI DIP

Prep: 10 min Ready In: 10 min Makes: 2-1/3 cups

INGREDIENTS: 1/2 cup ***MIRACLE WHIP*** Dressing + 1 cup sour cream + 1/2 cup KRAFT 100% Parmesan Grated Cheese + 1/2 cup each: finely chopped green and red pepper + 1/2 tsp. garlic powder

DIRECTIONS: 1) MIX 2) REFRIGERATE 3) SERVE 4) BRACE yourself for unique flavour.

ARTICHOKE AND PEPPER PARM DIP

Prep: 10 min Ready In: 1 hr 10 min Makes: 3 cups

INGREDIENTS: 1 cup ***MIRACLE WHIP*** Dressing + 1 pkg. (250 g) PHILADELPHIA Brick Cream Cheese, softened + 1/3 cup KRAFT 100% Parmesan Grated Cheese + 1 can (398 mL) artichoke hearts, drained, coarsely chopped + 1 red pepper, chopped + 2 green onions, chopped

DIRECTIONS: 1) MIX cream cheese and dressing. 2) ADD remaining ingredients. 3) REFRIGERATE. 4) BRACE yourself for unique flavour.

BAKED CHEESY BROCCOLI DIP

Prep: 10 min Ready In: 40 min Makes: 3 cups

INGREDIENTS: 1 cup ***MIRACLE WHIP*** CALORIE-WISE Dressing, 25% less calories than our regular product + 1 pkg. (300 g) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed, well drained + 1/4 cup finely chopped drained roasted red peppers + 1/2 cup KRAFT 100% Parmesan Grated Cheese Light, 26% less fat than our regular product + 1 cup KRAFT Part Skim Mozzarella Shredded Cheese, divided

DIRECTIONS: 1) PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Combine dressing, broccoli, peppers, Parmesan cheese and 1/2 cup of the mozzarella cheese. 2) SPREAD into 1-L baking dish or 9-inch pie plate. 3) BAKE 20 to 25 min. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese. Bake an additional 5 min. 4) BRACE yourself for unique flavour.

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Wednesday, June 25, 2008

The new Jetta Wagon is based on the current Jetta/Golf sedan platform and shares their essential hardware, including suspension and body panels.

European powerhouse

Jetta wagon builds on VW's charisma and popularity

By **BRADLEY HORN**
for Metro Toronto

2009 Volkswagen Jetta Wagon

- Type: Compact 5-pass. wagon FWD
- Price: $23,475 - $31,675
- Engine: 2.5L L5 DOHC/2.0L L4 DOHC turbo
- HP: 170 @ 5,700 rpm/200 @ 5,100 rpm
- Torque: 177 @ 4,250 rpm/207 @ 1,800 rpm

Highlights:

- Handsome "Euro" looks
- Cargo room
- Build quality
- Diesel fuel economy
- Cruising range

In Canada of late, the Jetta has largely been the flag bearer for the wagon body style for Volkswagen. In fact, when the previous-generation Jetta "longback" debuted in 2001, it gained uncanny cult status among Euro-type fans for its utility, handling and frugality — especially when equipped with a turbodiesel powerplant.

Such was its popularity, the TDI VW stayed an extra year in Canada after fading from the U.S. scene and examples have sold on EBay recently for more than the original asking price.

So Volkswagen wants to carry on that charisma here with its new '09 Jetta Wagon, which is currently available with a 2.5-litre, five-cylinder engine (170 hp) and a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine (both gasoline powered) but will have a new design, cleaner burning 2.0-litre turbodiesel available by mid-summer. When the latter occurs, VW will be the only car company here to provide diesel power — with its fuel economy advantages over gasoline power — in a wagon format. The turbodiesel delivers 140 hp and impressive torque output for low-speed throttle response.

Until then, the five-cylinder and turbo four-cylinder engines come mated to either a standard five-speed manual transmission or an optional six-speed automatic and provide performance, ride and handling levels suited to the needs of most buyers.

This new Jetta Wagon is based on the current Jetta/Golf sedan platform and shares their essential hardware, including suspension and body panels from the B-pillar forward. It has the same wheelbase as the sedan, but, compared to the outgoing wagon, the overall length has stretched by 147 mm (nearly six inches).

As is usual with VW these days, body/trim fits and finish sits well above class norms. The standard wheels are 16-inchers, although alloys are available. In large part, the interior is much like the sedan's, with excellent materials and ergonomic touches like felt-lined storage pockets and a tilt/telescopic steering wheel.

With the standard 60/40-split rear seats up, the Wagon swallows 928 litres (32.8 cu-ft) of stuff. There's additional storage in the side panelling and under the cargo floor, too, which sports a cover that can be propped up for use as a divider. The rear seats also tumble flat easily (with the headrests removed) to maximize cargo carrying capacity, assisted by a fold-down backrest on the front passenger seat.

Standard equipment includes air conditioning, keyless entry, cruise control, eight-way adjustable driver/front passenger seats, power heated mirrors, auxiliary input jack and front and side airbags for front seat occupants.

The base "Trendline" model stickers for $23,475. "Comfortline" ($25,975) and "Highline" ($29,375) models progressively add goodies like leather, a multifunction steering wheel, chrome exterior trim and a huge panoramic sunroof.

The wagon's interior, above, is much like the sedan's, with excellent materials and ergonomic touches. Below, the model's generous cargo space shows the utilitarian side of Volkswagen.

Beauty lies in hands of beholder

With the rising price of gasoline and food, not to mention a difficult job market, the last thing many people are thinking about is purchasing a new vehicle.

Now, more than ever, it's important for you to protect the value of your investment with proper vehicle maintenance, including up-keep of appearance.

Most of us know that proper performance maintenance, such as regular oil changes and tune-ups, influence a vehicle's long-term drivability. But when it comes to determining its sale or trade-in value, appearance is as important as what's under the hood. The condition of a car's exterior and interior is a strong indication whether it has been well maintained and can significantly alter its worth.

keep the look

» Wash your car every other week. No matter the season, regular washing helps prevent bugs, tar, road grime and other damaging elements from eroding the finish and becoming a long-term fixture on the exterior. Do not use dish soap to wash the vehicle.

» Apply car wax as needed. Not only does waxing help restore colour and shine, it leaves behind a protective barrier to help prevent scratches, swirl marks and other imperfections that can permanently damage the vehicle's paint and finish.

» Pay attention to other exterior surfaces. In addition to the car's finish, protecting and cleaning wheels, exterior plastics and moulding will help keep your car looking like new.

» Don't forget the inside counts, too. It's just as easy to notice areas of neglect on the interior of a vehicle. To prevent stains and permanent discoloration, clean interior surfaces, including carpeting, upholstery and inside door panels on a regular basis.

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Nissan's big breakthrough

Versa expands small car thinking

By **B. MCLAUCHLAN**
for Metro Toronto

Big for a subcompact size and attractively priced, the Versa hatchback is also a sharp little looker.

With its big-for-a-subcompact size, modern drivetrain and keen price Nissan's Versa hatchback has the added advantage of also being a sharp little looker.

Although the 1.8 S base model's $14,598 starting price qualifies it as an "entry-level" rival for the likes of the Chevrolet Aveo, Honda Fit and Toyota Yaris, Nissan says it's no such thing in terms of its size, content, performance or quality.

It's hard to argue with such logic. For instance, the Versa is appreciably bigger than its main market rivals. At 2,600 mm, it claims the longest wheelbase in its class and tops the others, too, in overall body length and height.

Those generous external dimensions translate into very accommodating interior volume, cargo space (with the rear seats folded), headroom and rear legroom.

The Versa's 1.8-litre engine pumps out 122 horsepower compared with the 103 to 110 hp output from its smaller-displacement subcompact competitors, and the unit is a little gem in everyday operation. Smooth and free-revving, it propels the easy-riding Versa along with real brio via a standard six-speed manual transmission — the only one in its class, as is the optionally available Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).

The dash, instrumentation and trim treatment look, work and feel better than you'd expect in such an inexpensive car. There are lots of spots for bottles, cups and other family flotsam, while the seats are well finished and comfortably supportive. The amount of rear seat legroom is unusually generous in a car this size.

Highway cruising is pleasantly quiet as the engine revs are kept suitably low at typical highway speeds.

Both the 1.8 S and 1.8 SL models offer a full complement of front, side and side-curtain airbags as standard, along with front-seat active head restraints.

There's also a reasonably priced Value Package for the base 1.8 S, which adds air conditioning, power locks and windows, keyless entry, rear door pockets and door armrest pads.

The 1.8 SL starts at $17,398 and opting for the CVT adds an additional $1,300.

25 years of Nissan

» Nissan's assembly plant in Smyrna, Tenn., has just celebrated 25 years of building vehicles at the facility.

Since the plant produced its first compact pickup truck in June 1983, more than 8.2 million vehicles have been built in Smyrna.

"Over the past 25 years, Nissan's Smyrna plant has placed its mark on this community, the southern United States, and the automotive industry," said Greg Daniels, senior vice-president, U.S. manufacturing, Nissan North America.

"We are extremely proud of what we've accomplished over the past quarter of a century and are looking forward to the next 25 years."

Though Volkswagen preceded it by assembling its Rabbit model in Pennsylvania in the mid-1970s, Nissan was the first foreign automaker to bring vehicle assembly operations to the southern part of the United States.

Vehicles produced in Smyrna have won numerous awards including the 2002 Altima voted by U.S. and Canadian journalists as the "North American Car of the Year."

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Goodbye to dry cleaning

Ford Flex makes driving friendlier for dress, trousers

Ford's 2009 Flex can add another claim to its growing list of why buys: You could call it the world's first trouser- and dress-friendly vehicle.

That's good news for everyone but dry cleaners, because the development team engineered into the Flex a concealed rocker panel (the structural component at the bottom of the door opening).

"The design is so clean and efficient that we've been able to reduce the step-in area," said Rich Gresens, chief designer for the Flex. "The clever design minimizes your clothes' exposure to the elements. There's no sill area where dirt usually collects."

The designers stretched the width of the Flex to wrap around the sill, bringing the step-in area inboard for much easier access for passengers. In combination with the hidden rocker, the Flex door was designed to wrap under the sill, effectively sealing out the elements.

The Flex offers other "firsts" as well, including: The company's hugely successful SYNC system; SIRIUS Travel Link, which gives customers the opportunity to download real-time information on items like fuel prices, theatre listings, weather reports and sports scores; and a reverse camera system.

Ford claims to have made getting in and out of its new Flex model a less messy affair.

Chevrolet Volt is incorporating design elements to reduce aerodynamic drag.

Think outside box, inside wind tunnel

Automakers focus on aerodynamics for greener cars

As gas prices continue to rise, so does the search for new ways to improve fuel economy. This need is prompting automakers to put aerodynamics toward the top of their design priority lists and start thinking outside the box and inside the wind tunnel.

One of the best ways to improve a car's fuel economy is to reduce its aerodynamic drag. The easier the car is to push through the air, the less gas you have to use.

There are several design elements that can be altered to help the aerodynamic profile of a vehicle. Smoothing out the underbelly to create less turbulence is one. A Kamm-back design, where the back end drops off steeply, is another design element being developed for vehicles like the electronically driven Chevrolet Volt.

There are also ways to improve your own car's aerodynamics. Keeping bike, ski or luggage racks off the roof when you're not using them can greatly increase your vehicle's fuel efficiency. And secondly, keeping your car clean and waxed will make it slippery as you drive down the road.

Volvo design recognized

The influential trade publication Ward's AutoWorld has acknowledged Volvo for superior car interior design.

The Swedish automaker's C30 model earned the magazine's Interior Design Award for Best Brand Reflection. Last year, Volvo's S80 won similar recognition.

In making its selection, the U.S.-based magazine noted: "Marked by simplicity, grace and functionality, the C30's interior exemplifies this heritage. They not only defy the industry convention that mass ensures comfort, they contribute to a futuristic ambience usually reserved for concept cars."

Volvo C30 recently won an award for best interior design.

Volvo interiors have always been ergonomically designed to bring forward in materials all that is reflected in Scandinavian design: Where form and function combine to be aesthetically pleasing and easy to understand.

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Toyota grad program

The CAA's TripTik Travel Planner, available at *caa.ca*, maps out itineraries, spots the location of gas stations that are on the route and provides information on fuel prices. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Heat seeking in central California

Defying common sense proves to be worthwhile

By **ALLISON WILLIAMS**
Metro World News

In entertainment, the hot ticket is usually to the most popular show, movie or event. With vacations, it's the opposite — you want to be where everyone else isn't.

Locals might scoff at mid-summer travellers who visit Yosemite National Park during the height of tourist season — or openly mock anyone traipsing through Death Valley in July.

But Metro challenged common logic and found it worth the trip. The great thing about central California is that even the worst time to visit still beats everything else.

death valley

AVERAGE DAILY HIGH: 115 F

WORST TIME TO VISIT: July. The second-hottest place in the world (next to a spot in the Sahara) is often more than 120 F in the summer.

WHY IT'S NOT SO BAD: Did you come to Death Valley to chill out, or are you here to see the hottest place in the hemisphere? (Besides, it's a dry heat.) Load up on a gallon of water per person (at least) and you'll see the park at its most extreme, not to mention have it all to yourself.

LUIS CASTANEDA/THE IMAGES BANK/GETTY IMAGES

A view of Death Valley National Park in California.

for more information

» *www.nps.gov/deva*

While there is unlimited hiking in the massive park (about twice the size of Delaware), some of the best sights are near the road, and therefore require no heat-stroke-inducing treks.

Badwater Basin, where the valley (and continent, for that matter) bottoms out at 282 feet below sea level, is mere feet from the parking lot. Stay in the car with the A/C blowing for Artist's Drive, a nine-mile twisting loop with outrageous vistas and coloured rock formations.

In the quiet days of mid-summer, tickets are easier to come by at shady Scotty's Castle, a bizarre, turreted mansion named after a former member of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Once the sun starts to dip, park on the road near the Mesquite Flat Dunes, a pocket in the centre of Death Valley where you can recreate your Lawrence of Arabia fantasy.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE »

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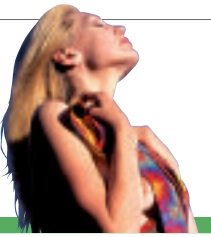
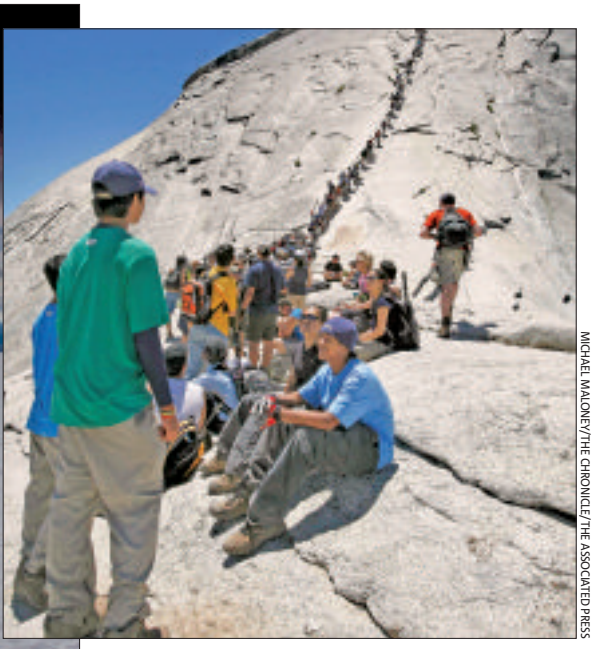
FINNAIR
WHY FLY ANY OTHER WAY

Despite increased gas and airline prices, 73 per cent of 18-24-year-olds are still finding vacations more relaxing than stressful, according to a recent survey conducted by Best Western and Kelton Research. METRO NEWS SERVICES



IAN SHIVE/AURORA

A woman stands silhouetted against the Panamint Mountains at Badwater Basin, Death Valley, Calif.



MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climbers wait at the bottom of the cable section at Half Dome in Yosemite, Calif.

« CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

lake tahoe

AVERAGE DAILY HIGH: 93 F

WORST TIME TO VISIT: :

When the area, already dry, has been ravaged by a forest fire, such as late June's raging blaze.

WHY IT'S NOT SO BAD:

Last year's South Lake Tahoe wildfire took nearly 200 buildings, more than 3,000 acres and was called "the worst in a century." While the displacement of locals is hard on the ski communities lining the still-pristine shore, it doesn't necessarily make it a bad time to visit. The towns of South Lake Tahoe and Stateline, Nev., heavily dependent on tourism, are eager to show off the continued general health of the area.

yosemite

AVERAGE DAILY HIGH: 90 F

WORST TIME TO VISIT:

A summer holiday, when the country's third most popular national park is at its peak capacity, with up to 575,000 visitors per month.

WHY IT'S NOT SO BAD:

Unlike piddling attractions that can't handle a sudden holiday rush, Yosemite National Park is prepared for a solid stream of visitors. Hybrid shuttle buses move visitors around the valley conveniently, so you need only park once.

The key to enjoying natural beauty in the midst of Yosemite's hordes of visitors is twofold. One, rise and shine; the early bird gets the uncrowded view at Glacier Point. Second, put a little effort into it and hit the trails (no, not the one that leads to the Curry Village taco stand). Popular routes, such as the first mile of the Mist Trail to picturesque Vernal Falls, is perpetually mobbed — an amazing number of people want to haul a baby and a Bugaboo up a mountain trail. But soldier on when the trail gets steep and you'll leave the hoi polloi behind. Just beyond Vernal Falls, Nevada Falls rewards hikers with spectacular views and refreshing wading pools, while on the southern end of the park the Sentinel Dome and Taft Point loop affords more private looks at El Capitan and Half Dome. If you're planning to climb the massive Half Dome, well ... if all goes well, you'll remember the accomplishment more than the queue.

for more information

» *www.tahoeinfo.com/visit*
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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LA TERCERA FILE PHOTO

Giant volcanic rock statues called Moais are shown on Easter Island in the South Pacific. Easter Island is the Earth's most remote inhabited land, a South Pacific speck of volcanic rock so isolated the locals call it "Te Pito O Te Henua," or "The Navel of the World."

Easter Island's Moais in danger

It's Earth's most remote inhabited land, a South Pacific speck of volcanic rock so isolated the locals call it "Te Pito O Te Henua," or "The Navel of the World."

But Easter Island is a bellybutton experiencing a tourist boom — and some are worried the onslaught of outsiders could take a toll on the very things they come to see, the gigantic stone heads known as Moais.

"More tourism, more deterioration. More visitors, more loss," said Susana Nahoe, an archeologist who was a liaison between Chile's National Tourism Service and the island's scientific community before leaving the post two years ago, citing "differences in values."

"We are at the point now where, either we protect what we have or we lose it," she said.

Moais (pronounced Moe-Eyes) already face a host of natural enemies. Sun, surf, winds and humidity are eating at their features. Many have been beset by blights, lichen and moss. Erosion tears away the Ahus, ceremonial platforms of dirt and stone on which they sit, and even is slowly claiming the island's porous edges.

Nahoe said most tourists are careful not to harm Moais, but some unknowingly walk or climb on them, exacerbating natural deterioration. Others deface them deliberately, including a Finnish tourist who was fined $17,000 US after hacking an ear lobe off a statue in March.

What can be done to better protect Moais is difficult to answer. But then, so much about this place raises beguiling questions. Why were the heads built? How were they lugged all over the island? What happened to their eyes? And what catastrophe befell civilization, causing people to suddenly stop making the Moai and topple the ones they'd completed?

Settlers arrived from the Marquesas Islands to the north between 400 and 600. Society flourished until about 1680 and Moais probably were constructed to honour tribal leaders. But resources became scarce as the population grew. When islanders cut down all the trees, tribal warfare erupted, leading to cannibalism and the pulling down of the Moai.

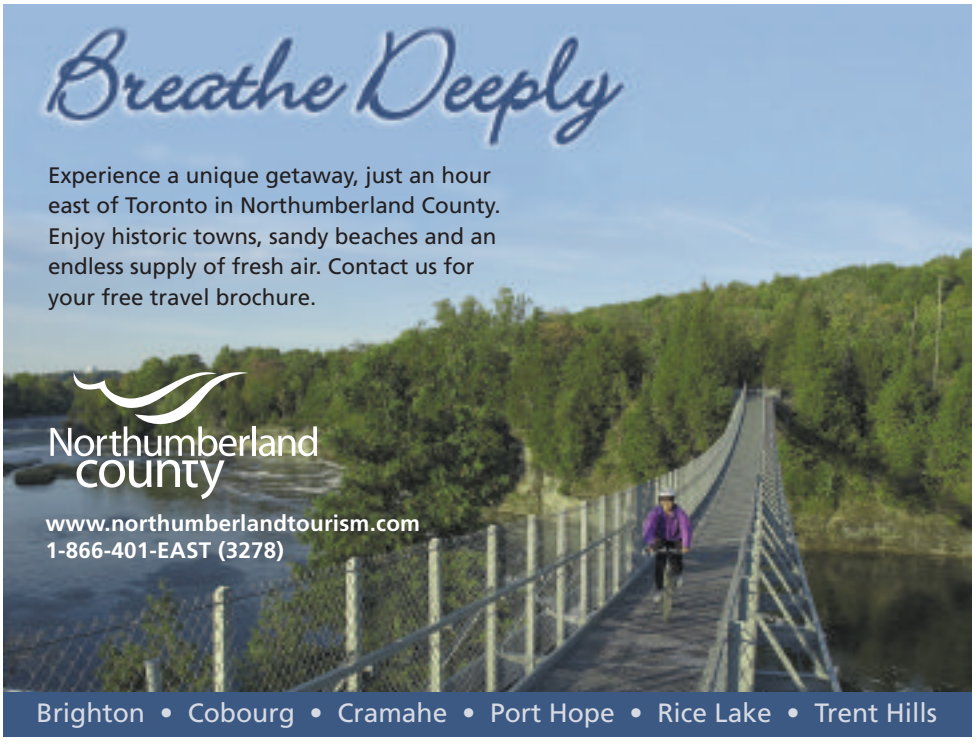
The island's name comes from Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen, who arrived on Easter Sunday in 1722. It's Chilean territory, though the country's mainland lies 3,600 kilometres to the east.

At 16 by 24 kilometres, Easter Island is roughly three times the size of Manhattan. In 1967, Chile's Lan Airlines began using it as a refuelling stop en route to Tahiti. Tourists began arriving en masse 20 years later, when a three-kilometre runway was built as an alternative landing site for the U.S. space shuttle.

Today, in addition to a few cruise ships, there are eight flights a week from Santiago, Chile's capital, and Papeete, Tahiti. During low season, late March through July, the number of weekly flights drops to four, but packed planes have brought record numbers of tourists.

"Every flight is full," said Pedro Edmunds, mayor of the only town, Hanga Roa. "It's been brutal. But in a good way."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Bugging out in **New Orleans**

BILL HABER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitors walk through the Audubon Insectarium in New Orleans. The new tourist attraction, launched this month, is the first to open since Hurricane Katrina.

Rideau Canal Festival aims to have 'zero footprint'

A World Heritage flotilla of decorated boats will be among the attractions at the inaugural edition of the Rideau Canal Festival, which runs Aug. 1-4. The vessels will represent World Heritage sites such as the pyramids of Egypt and the wonders of Easter Island.

The Rideau Canal is Canada's most recent UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Beginning July 26, five boats representing the five original builder groups of the Rideau will parade from Kingston visiting communities along the canal. On Aug. 3 the boats will lead the World Heritage flotilla along the seven-kilometre route between Dows Lake and the Ottawa Locks.

The festival will also include a triathlon, an environmental fair, Bytown Museum ceremonies, historic re-enactments, heritage walks and what is being billed as "the world's largest parade of bicycles."

The Rideau Canal Festival aims to be the first "zero footprint" festival in Canada, with initiatives designed to reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions produced during the four days to zero.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs issues warning on travel in Guyana

Canadians travelling in Guyana should exercise "a high degree of caution at all times" due to crime in the country, warns the Foreign Affairs Department.

Assaults, pickpocketing, purse snatching, break-ins, armed robberies, car thefts, and carjacking are common, particularly in Georgetown, says an online travel advisory issued by the department. Violent attacks have also occurred on the road to and from Cheddi Jagan International Airport. "Returning Guyanese and foreigners are favourite targets for criminals," says the advisory. "Canadians have been injured while being robbed at gunpoint. A number of random execution-style killings have been reported."

"Do not show signs of affluence," travellers are warned. "When approached by a police officer, always ask to see identification." For more details, visit *voyage.gc.ca*.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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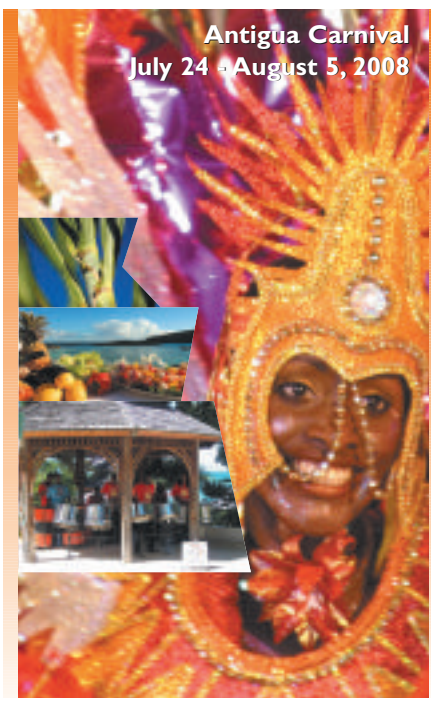

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Visiting dark pieces of Ottawa's past

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS
The former Carleton County Jail in downtown Ottawa includes the gallows where public hangings took place. Those who wander beyond the city's parliamentary precinct can find a world of assassination, public hangings and intrigue.

For those willing to wander a few steps beyond the gothic spires of Ottawa's parliamentary precinct and glimpse beneath the veneer of a prim-and-proper capital, there lies a tantalizing history few tourists ever see.

It is a world of scandal, international intrigue and political assassination.

"Politics and scandal seem to go hand-in-hand," said Christina Tessier, local historian and director of the Bytown Museum. "And with Ottawa being the nation's capital, this would certainly be the place you would expect to find it."

The Sparks Street Mall is located less than a block from Parliament Hill. Near the mall's eastern edge across from the post office and adjacent to the pub bearing his name is a discreet plaque that marks the spot where Thomas D'Arcy McGee was assassinated.

An Irishman by birth who became a father of Confederation, McGee was returning to his Sparks Street apartment about 1 a.m. on April 7, 1868, after a late sitting of the Commons when a figure emerged from the darkness and fired a single bullet into McGee's head.

McGee's killing was Canada's first political assassination and it caused a sensation. He was a journalist, poet, politician, and generally acknowledged as the young country's finest political orator. What was then an enormous sum — $2,000 — was offered as a reward for information leading to the arrest of his assassin.

McGee was thought to be the victim of a plot launched by Irish nationalists known as Fenians who regularly launched raids into Canada from the United States. But Patrick James Whelan, who was convicted and hanged for the assassination, was never accused of being a Fenian by the Crown prosecutor.

A few blocks to the east on Nicholas Street is the building that housed the Carleton County Gaol where Whelan was strung up for his crime in one of Canada's last public hangings. His execution took place in front of approximately 5,000 people at what is now known as the Ottawa Jail Hostel. Staff there provide tours of Whelan's tiny, dark and dank cell and the creepy gallows where he spent his last moments.

A 10-minute walk further east among the stately embassy residences and well-worn student housing in the city's Sandy Hill neighbourhood is the elegant former home of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But it was the gold-brick building's second resident — William Lyon Mackenzie King — who brought the old manse much of its current mystery.

King called this home from 1923-50 and is said to have held seances in the library, where a portrait of his beloved mother is illuminated in a ghostly glow. Canada's longest-serving prime minister placed a red rose in front of the portrait every day.

Nearby on a table is a crystal ball an American bought for him after overhearing King complaining about its cost while on a trip to London.

While King was involved in enigmatic communications, grim intrigue was occurring across town in Dundonald park, just a few blocks from Parliament Hill.

A plaque in the park marks the spot where the RCMP monitored the Soviets' frantic efforts to find Igor Gouzenko in the apartment building he occupied on Somerset Avenue. Gouzenko, a Soviet cipher clerk, had already walked out of the Soviet embassy in 1945 with more than 100 documents proving the existence of a Soviet spy ring in Canada.

The events leading to his defection are often credited with helping to ignite the Cold War. Fearing for his safety and the well-being of his family, Gouzenko hid out at a neighbour's apartment while the KGB scoured his home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Border guards, unleash the dogs

THE TRAVEL JUNKIE
JULIA DIMON
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JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Metro columnist Julia Dimon has been enjoying life in B.C. in recent weeks, but she's about to take off on another around-the-world trip to tape her television show, Word Travels.

Customs officials are quick to give me the evil eye. My passport has so many transit stamps that even I admit it's starting to look a little strange. I've been to over 60 countries (many of them considered "suspect") and the total is rising rapidly.

So border guards, unleash the dogs — I about to off for my third adventure around the world.

This time, I'll be heading out with a television crew to film season two of Word Travels (airing every Wednesday across Canada on OLN). With another 13 episodes green lit, my bags are packed — I don't think I ever really unpacked from my last adventure — and I'm gearing up for another round of passport stamps.

Word Travels follows the real lives of two young Canadian writers — Vancouver-based adventurer Robin Esrock and yours truly — to capture the warts-and-all lifestyle that is travel journalism. We're talking the good, the bad, the hungover and the cranky.

From taxi scams to language barriers, readers will discover that my so-called dream job comes with the occasional nightmare.

Last year, our show visited Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Dubai, Jordan, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Latvia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Yukon and New Zealand.

This year, our list includes Taiwan, Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Romania, Ukraine, Turkey, Georgia, Belize, Mexico, British Colombia — gotta get Canada in there somehow — and Jamaica.

We'll be gone for the next few months, filming overseas through everything from political turmoil to the occasional surprise typhoon.

That's nothing for our fearless crew of six. Picture two on-camera hosts, Sean (a bald director of photography with an affinity for beer) Chris (a jack of all trades who acts as a human garborator), Paul (a sound guy who habitually dislocates his shoulder) and a cast of rotating directors to wrangle the fray.

If it's anything like last season, I can expect long days shooting, lots of luggage, tons of delayed flights and a set of well defined ab muscles from laughing at the crew's hysterical antics. They're a good group of peeps, who I'm happy to have as my surrogate family.

But I'm also looking for assistance from Metro readers. I'll be looking for cool, unusual stories in all of the destinations we're visiting, and I'm hoping to elicit your suggestions.

Do you know of any cool places to stay, eat or party? Off-the-beaten track spots, human interest stories or quirky sub-cultures? Things to do, things to avoid — I'm open to it all. If you would like to share your thoughts, I'd love to hear from you. Please contact me at *editor@thetraveljunkie.ca*.

Meanwhile, I'm off to the airport, sketchy-looking passport in hand.

Freelance writer Julia Dimon is host of Word Travels, airing on OLN. Contact her at www.thetraveljunkie.ca

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workology

Tonight, 100 per cent of tips and wages from the service staff at the Hyde Nightclub, through the volunteer group Hotties For Humanity, will be going directly to StepStones for Youth, a charity that helps to take at-risk youth to a nine-day summer camp program. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Turn off that phone

Today's connected world contributes to work worry

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOW**
for Metro Toronto

Four out of five Canadians believe work stress is harming their health, but few are willing to completely let go of work, even on vacation.

A recent Ipsos-Reid survey presented by *Tripharbour.ca* showed that more than 80 per cent of working Canadians believe workplace stress is negatively impacting their health, and more than one-in-three Canadians surveyed say they struggle to balance their work and personal lives.

Lise Janelle, a business and life coach in Toronto who spent more than 23 years as a chiropractor, says "powering down" — being able to drop your work and force yourself to relax like you're supposed to — is becoming increasingly hard in a world of instant and constant communication. In her experience, not taking the time to relax can make you far less productive despite spending more time working.

"What I find with my clients is if they don't power down, their productivity is decreased. They feel stressed out, they feel tired, they feel they never have enough time in the day," Janelle said.

Janelle blames communication devices and their prevalence in day-to-day lives as a large factor in making Canadians feel like they're tethered to work no matter where they are. Turning off your work cellphone or mobile data device is the first step to letting yourself truly relax.

People should find time to "power down" when away from work to lower stress, life coach Lise Janelle suggests.

> « *We used to live not that long ago without cellphones and the world still functioned.* »
>
> *Life coach Lise Janelle*

"We used to live not that long ago without cellphones and the world still functioned. I'm certain you can take a week off without your cellphone and things will be OK," Janelle said.

The study found Albertans are most likely to keep their data devices and check work calls while on vacation with Ontarians also struggling to let go, while Quebecers had the lowest instances of checking in with the office during time off. In the Atlantic provinces, 62 per cent of respondents said they don't enjoy their work while respondents in Saskatchewan and Manitoba were least likely to believe that work-related stress was negatively impacting their lives.

Across Canada, one-in-five workers admitted to never truly disconnecting from work.

For Janelle, the results show that people who can't let go of work when they're not working have the hardest time powering down.

"If people are serious about powering down, they don't have a problem putting down their mobile. If you do have a problem powering down, don't take your mobile with you," Janelle said.

Over the years, Janelle has seen first-hand the negative health effects of workplace stress on Canadians.

"Often the spine gets affected, people get stress headaches, lower back pain, neck pain and stomach ulcers. There are health risks," Janelle said.

on the move

by enza supermodel
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

name » *Scott Baribairn*

occupation » *Fundraising director*

age » *39*

location » *Yonge and Wellesley*

SCOTT FAIRBAIRN has been fundraising for a cause his entire career. His career has spanned 13 years. He's worked for various arts foundations and health institutions raising much needed capital. His current role as fundraising director for Bridgepoint Health Foundation has him campaigning for funds for its hospital explanation. For Fairbairn, dedication to patient care is job satisfaction. Making music keeps him occupied on his days off.

Photo by Enza Supermodel

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Gaffes often happen on job interviews

Certain mistakes easily avoidable

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOW**
for Metro Toronto

when you lose it

» In the worst cases, learn from your mistake, let it go, and tell your friends about it over drinks. "And at least it'll make for a great story," says Lara Dodo.

If you've ever embarrassed yourself at a job interview you can take some solace in the fact that plenty of other people have done the same.

What's important is to learn from your mistakes so you can be better prepared the next time.

Lara Dodo, vice-president of administrative staffing firm OfficeTeam, has compiled a staggering collection of job interview blunder stories in her years helping people find work. She says most gaffes, big and small alike, boil down to a lack of common sense or simply poor judgment.

Cellphones are a frequent culprit, as users tend to lose their grip on sanity when handling or dealing with them.

Once, Dodo says a candidate with more guts than brains took a call on their cellphone during an interview — a call that was for another job interview happening later that day at a different company.

Another time, a potential hire forgot to turn off his cell, but rather than politely click it off and apologize, he just let it ring continuously and loudly — a rather unnerving choice.

Other classic flubs involved interviewees confusing the company name with a competitor's or even mixing up their own job backgrounds or having resumé embellishments revealed.

Unlike one person who Dodo says showed up in workout clothes, always dress conservatively even for positions that may allow for casual attire.

"No interview is casual," Dodo said.

And remember, don't shoot the messenger — the person at the front desk is, after all, the gatekeeper into the job.

"Always be polite and professional to receptionists — research has shown that receptionists play a highly influential role in the hiring process. If you're rude, it won't reflect well," Dodo said.

A big cause for interview screw-ups is nervousness, Dodo says.

> *« Always be polite and professional to receptionists ... receptionists play a highly influential role in the hiring process. »*
> *OfficeTeam's Lara Dodo*

"Nerves can do some crazy things to you. If the interview is at 11 o'clock, don't get there at 10:59. Give yourself time to relax. Be prepared and know what to expect in the interview," Dodo said.

If you do make a gaffe, show that you can fix it.

"If you are aware that you've made a mistake, apologize and correct yourself. Any problem that's handled gracefully may actually impress your interviewer," Dodo said.

Don't give up right away if you've flubbed your first impression — you may be able to turn things around with your personality, skills and experience.

"The bad impression doesn't necessarily take you out of the running if you've been able to showcase and emphasize your skills and experience well," Dodo said.

Leaving your cellphone on is a common mistake for interviewees to make.

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Warning to Facebook users

WORKPLACE LAW
DANIEL LUBLIN
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com

Facebook has grown in popularity — so much so, that a growing number of organizations have restricted access to the site from work. And, in my view, there is good reason to do so, as employees are too easily confusing freedom of speech with freedom from workplace consequences.

As Facebook's popularity continues to rise, so will the number of ex-employees looking for new work along with seeing their names on the front page of one of my statements of claim. Employees should, therefore, be more concerned about losing their jobs, instead of simply losing access to the site:

» Spending an inordinate amount of time on Facebook while at work is tantamount to theft of an employer's time, which can amount to cause for dismissal. Employees flirt with friends, post pictures and chat.

» When Facebook postings reveal unsavoury characteristics, employees can be fired. I've had two such cases. In one, the employee's pictures of her messy workstation irked her employer so much, she was immediately dismissed. In the other, a large retail chain fired a store manager after he posted a link to a video of himself that was taken when he was off-duty, but in company uniform.

» Comments written on Facebook can link the author to his employer, despite an unintended connection. Because workers are invited to disclose their place of employment and then are automatically linked with registered co-workers, employees' unmonitored comments can potentially compromise a company's reputation, trade secrets, or its competitive advantage — even if the reader mistakenly construes a posting as having been authorized by the company. Given the value placed on confidential information, courts are more likely to respect an employer's decision to precipitously fire an employee whose posting compromised a competitive advantage.

» Criminal laws can also be invoked if employees harass or intimidate coworkers via Facebook. These employees can end up surfing the classifieds for a criminal defence lawyer, as well as for a new job.

» Similar to an e-mail, a Facebook posting can be used as evidence in court. In September, an Ontario court ruled, for the first time, that pictures taken from a litigant's Facebook page were admissible as evidence at a trial. Offensive comments, pictures or stories can become incontrovertible evidence of an employee's behaviour.

» Facebook profiles and postings created and maintained outside of working hours and on employees' personal time can quickly derail an employee's career, if the content brings his or her employer's reputation into disrepute.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focussing on the law of dismissal. He can be reached at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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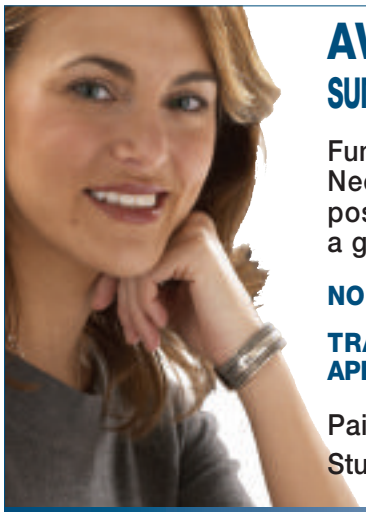

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entertainment

Hilary Duff, left, has joined Winona Ryder, Jon Cryer, Sean Astin and Chevy Chase in the cast of the Polish brothers comedy Stay Cool. EW.COM

Cinema's robots show soul

Machines typically had sinister aims in film roles

By **RICK McGINNIS**
Metro Toronto

If there's a villain in Wall-E, the animated Pixar feature opening this week, it's Auto, a wheel-like robot with a very familiar red eye glowing, Cyclops-like, in the centre of its hub. You can be certain that the designers and animators at Pixar knew perfectly well that they were borrowing the single most recognizable bit of HAL, the villain of Stanley Kubrick's epochal 1968 film 2001: A Space Odyssey.

There had been robots in movies before 2001; the most iconic were probably Gort, the muscle brought by aliens to Earth in The Day The Earth Stood Still, and Robby, the bulbous robot who began his long career in 1956's The Forbidden Planet.

The modern era of movie sci-fi began with Kubrick's film, however, and with it a major shift in the roles of robots — from dumb machines limited to the confines of their programming to mechanisms at the dawn of consciousness, seeded with what can only be called a soul.

Pixar's Wall-E is just such a creature, left alone with a single programmed task for centuries, during which the cute little trash compactor develops emotions, schooled by a discarded videocassette of Hello Dolly. The film's bleakest joke is that Wall-E and his fellow robots have more personality than the adipose blobs humans have evolved into during centuries adrift in space.

Ever since Keir Dullea shut down HAL in 2001, in a scene where the malevolent computer evoked more bathos than any single human in the film, movies have returned again and again to robots with either humanoid shapes or recognizably human emotions. With the exception of C3-PO in Star Wars, it's a general rule that humanoid robots in movies will likely

The film's bleakest joke is that Wall-E and his fellow robots have more personality than the adipose blobs humans have evolved into during centuries adrift in space.

have a sinister agenda — think the original Terminator, Sonny in the recent movie adaptation of Isaac Asimov's I, Robot, Yul Brynner's Gunslinger in Westworld and False Maria, the striking art deco robot in Fritz Lang's Metropolis. Squat, diminutive robots like Wall-E, toddler-like in proportion and demeanour, are inevitably benevolent — think R2-D2, Johnny Five in Short Circuit, and Huey, Dewey and Louie, the waddling mailboxes in the dystopic Silent Running.

All these movies seem to be working overtime to imagine the day when our creations attain consciousness, and humanity becomes the same sort of inattentive, negligent creator that we suspect God to be in our darker moments.

At their best, we hope they're like Wall-E, blessed and befuddled with our own doubts and wonder and vital but inefficient emotions. In a worst case scenario, like HAL or Auto, they pursue their programming and merciless logic and our very existence is called into doubt by newly-minted robot atheists who no longer believe in us.

McAvoy's greatest challenge with role? Eating

By **STEVE GOW**
for Metro Toronto

James McAvoy may be Hollywood's newest action hero but the unassuming gentleman sipping green tea while doing interviews to promote his latest film is not your prototypical power man.

He doesn't have the build of, say, The Rock. Nor the swagger of Jason Statham. The guy once played a half-goat in The Chronicles Of Narnia for crying out loud. He can't really be the next big action hero, can he?

McAvoy

Well, with his latest movie Wanted, it's about to change for James McAvoy. In the film, he plays a nervous loser who becomes an incredibly gifted fighter after he's taken in by a fraternity of "supersensory trained assassins." The film features some stunning cinematography and huge stunts, particularly one favourite of McAvoy's that involved leaping from a moving car just before it got sideswiped. "There were no wires and there were no mats," brags the actor. "I always had pads, of course. Lots and lots of padding."

Surprisingly, it wasn't the demanding stunts that were the most challenging aspect of making Wanted. McAvoy gained more than 25 pounds of muscle for the part.

"I don't know how much I bulked up and I don't even know what pounds are because we use kilograms so it was like nine or 10 kilograms," laughs the 29-year-old Scottish actor. "I didn't get ridiculously large at all but I put on a lot of weight for me."

In order to add that weight, the slim actor (he only weighed 137 pounds before filming) was required to do two months of intense training. His daily regimen included fight-training, kick-boxing, weapons, weights and interval training.

"Eating," McAvoy blurts out about what the hardest part of it all was. "Just keeping that weight on when you're doing 13 hours a day (of stunts) and then you're doing the gym at night. I had to eat like a trooper, man."

For all his hard work, however, McAvoy shares no ambition to become the next great action hero. In fact, he's still perfectly happy to hang up his kick-boxing gloves for awhile. "We might make another one of these one day, but until then, I don't think I'll go back."

»news In Brief

» **OSCARS** Actor Sacha Baron Cohen and Canadian director Jason Reitman have been invited to join Hollywood's most exclusive club — the group that decides the winners of the Academy Awards.

» **ARRESTED** Manhattan prosecutors say an Italian businessman who has been romantically linked to movie star Anne Hathaway has been arrested on wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering charges.

» **DVDS** Fool's Gold tops both rentals and sales lists, according to Blockbuster Video Canada.

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PRIDEweek

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre presents the documentary Jerusalem Is Proud To Present at the Al Green Theatre. Call 416-924-6211 for more.

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Faith-based support

Group helps GLBT Muslims

By **BRIAN TOWIE**
Metro Toronto

Faisal Alam was honoured for his work with a Pride Toronto Award of Excellence at the Pride Gala & Awards last night.

Being gay doesn't make you any less Muslim, at least not to Faisal Alam.

It's a message he has and will continue to spread through Al Fatiha (The Opening), a worldwide support organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Muslims he founded and directs. He was honoured for his work with a Pride Toronto Award of Excellence at the Pride Gala & Awards Show last night at the Distillery District for his work in spirituality.

"It feels really good," says Alam, 30. "In many Pride festivities, faith-based groups are often neglected."

Alam says this group is of particular importance because of the danger facing Muslims who come out in some countries, where homosexuality can be tantamount to a death sentence (he mentions Saudi Arabia and Iran as two culprits). But Islam, he says, has never condemned homosexuality, and traditionally never intruded into the bedrooms of its followers. He believes with the imposition of Victorian-era values onto the religion, intolerance of sexual orientation is relatively recent, and that Islamic communities are gradually becoming more accepting of those who choose different lifestyles.

"Most institutions are still very strict, very conservative about it, but that's beginning to change," says Alam. "Canada, for instance, is a microcosm of all the different facets of the Muslim world. If you don't like what your mosque is preaching, you can always go to another mosque more suited to your ideology."

Al Fatiha is certainly not neglected in other circles. In its 10 years of existence, the group has gone from being an online discussion board to an estimated 2,500 members with chapters in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. — the first one was established in Toronto. Alam says the group is viewed by fundamentalists and extremists as a threat, however, adding two fatwahs have been declared against Al Fatiha in the U.K., though not by any institutionalized organization.

It's not something that scares Alam. The member of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable in the U.S. says the real challenge is establishing a dialogue with religious authorities, who are often from older, more rigid generations. He claims they often use passages in the Qur'an to attack GLBT Muslims.

"It happens in many religions, not just Islam. The religious leaders will use the text as a weapon to marginalize the group that is different. People in positions of power don't want to relinquish that power," he said. "It's too easy to look at the passages that way, but what they're not doing is looking at the lives being affected. People are leaving the faith because they're being told God hates them because they're gay."

» For more information, visit *www.al-fatiha.org*.

» my pride

by enza supermodel
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

NAME: Trevor Boris
AGE: Nice try!
OCCUPATION: Comedian

CLAIM TO FAME: Having Mike Myers gush over me in a skit for this year's MuchMusic Video Awards!

A COMING OUT MOMENT: Well, I came out to my parents on stage during a standup show of mine, and the best part is my Dad thought it was just a part of my act and didn't realize that I'm actually gay 'til two months later. My Mom wasn't surprised at all, but she shouldn't have been; when I was young she put me in tap dance, accordion lessons, and gymnastics all at the same time. I mean, I really didn't have a choice.

FAVOURITE GAY ICON: Clay Aiken.

A TORONTO PRIDE EXPERIENCE: Arguing with a drag queen over who's the bigger Madonna fan while partying on Church Street.

MOST LIKELY PLACE TO BE SPOTTED DURING PRIDE: Well, Pride Saturday, I'll be in Washington, D.C., shooting a comedy special for LOGO (the U.S. gay network), so look for me Sunday on Church Street talking to the "crazies" for MuchMusic.

WORDS OF WISDOM: Once you become truly comfortable with who you are, others will be comfortable with you... and don't come out to your parents on stage!

Photo by Enza Supermodel

» come out

by enza supermodel
enza.supermodel@metronews.ca

DAVID HAWE PHOTO

Keith Cole will be at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre as part of the three-day event, Cheap Queers.

It's the day before official Pride weekend begins and if you've waited until today to get your Pride groove in gear, then not to worry, there's still plenty of events to attend.

After a two-day break from a weekend of theatre, Buddies in Bad Times returns with hardworking homosexuals in **CHEAP QUEERS**. This three-day event highlights original performances by local queer artists, musicians, writers, and dancers in five-minute masterpieces. With hosts **Keith Cole**, **Jess Dobkin** and **Ronnie Burkett**, this unbridled cabaret promises to be raucous and unpredictable. And yes, the cost is cheap.

"Cheap Queers offers the best in local queer talent at a rock bottom price of $6.49!," says Cole. "Expect moments of pure brilliance, sheer fun and uproarious laughter. Never a dull moment!"

» **THE DETAILS:** Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander St., *www.artsexy.ca*, 416-975-8555, tonight at 8.

Love film? Then you'll want to hit the second edition of **VIDEO ART IS QUEER** launch party, at the Gladstone. Ten commissioned works by Toronto filmmakers capture the theme of Pride Week: Unified. The queer videos will invade both public and private spaces with video installations across the city from giant video screens on the festival site to the TVs in the subway,

If big hair is more your thing, then get on the ball at the **DRAG BALL ON PARADE**. Watch as beautiful transsexuals take the stage in an all-out beauty pageant style show. Meet the winner of Drag Ball 2008 and catch performances that will tickle your fancy.

» **THE DETAILS:** Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St. W., *www.gladstonehotel.com*, 416-531-4635. In the ballroom. Doors at 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

The Asian Community AIDS Service (ACAS) also presents their short video **BAMBOO SHOOT GALA** contest at Goodhandy's. Six finalists will have their film works featured and a winner selected.

» **THE DETAILS:** Goodyhandy's, 120 Church St., *www.acas.org/bambooshoot*, 416-963-4300, tonight at 6:30.

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ALLIANCE FILMS

Some DVD sets are missing something

WORDS AND MUSIC: When the first season of WKRP In Cincinnati arrived on DVD, fans of the show were justifiably livid that almost all the musical cues — pop songs played on-air by DJs Venus Flytrap and Johnny Fever — were missing, and that when the song was integral to something happening onscreen, the scene would be trimmed to avoid looking nonsensical in the absence of music.

The practice of removing copyrighted music is common enough that companies like Viacom/Paramount routinely include a fine print warning — "some music may have been changed" — on disc sets where music has either been excised or replaced with generic substitutes.

The DVD set of Season 2 of The Fugitive — the '60s thriller starring David Janssen — recently hit the shelves after undergoing just such treatment, despite the fact the first season was released with all the original musical cues.

According to a story in Variety this week, the score for the second season didn't rely on a specially-composed score or public domain music, but from a mix of music by Pete Rugolo — author of the show's theme — and cues taken from a range of music libraries. Untangling the legal knots created by the show's music editor, Ken Wilhoit, 40 years ago proved so daunting that Paramount simply stripped out all the show's background music except for Rugolo's intro and outro credit themes, a move that fans have called "sickening," while stating they would be returning their purchases.

INTELLEVISION
RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Before the dawn of the lucrative DVD business, music contracts on TV shows made no provision for royalties or rights after original runs and syndication.

Today, music is negotiated with clauses that bear impressively inclusive language reserving right of usage for "any and all media now known or hereinafter devised."

This wasn't the case as recently as a decade ago, and profits from DVD sets have been diminished by the necessity of paying between $10,000 and $40,000 US per track — the Variety story recalls that licensing Motown songs for season one of Murphy Brown cost $1 million, while rights issues probably mean that shows like The Wonder Years will either hit the market with their music stripped out or not at all. (The Murphy Brown Season 1 box retailed on *amazon.com* for a sale price of just $20.99, as of yesterday.) While CBS Paramount executives refrained from answering Variety's queries about The Fugitive set in favour of a press statement explaining their actions, the editor of the website *TVShowsOnDVD.com* told the trade paper that moves like this are pushing fans into buying pirate sets, or illegal downloads, which you would think someone in marketing or PR at Viacom would have figured out by now.

In somewhat related news, it seems that pilot episodes of two more fall shows — Steven Bochco's legal drama Raising The Bar, and Leverage, a TNT show starring Timothy Hutton — hit the online file-sharing networks this week.

You would start to think, at this point, that Hollywood woke up one morning with a newfound death wish, and an ambition to see how quickly it can go the way of vaudeville or the telegraph.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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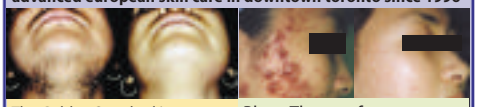

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primetime 6/25/08	265	353	2	TVO	Coiba: A Savage Paradise		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Canterbury Tales		The View From Here		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	The Office	Name Is Earl	NCIS "Sharif Returns"		ReGenesis		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie (HDTV)	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		Soccer
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Make Me a Supermodel		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Entourage	Entourage	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Canadian Idol	So You Think You Can Dance The top 16 contestants.				CSI: NY "The Deep"		News (N)
	218	345	11	CH	The Insider (N)	E! News	In Her Mother's Footsteps (2006, Suspense) Premiere.				Celebrity Circus (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama	Visages	Novgorod		Voyage vers le soleil ★★★ (1999, Drame) Newroz Baz.				Le Passage
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	World's Most Amazing Videos		Toronto Dances		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Price Is Right Spectacular		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "The Deep"		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Deal or No Deal (N)		The Baby Borrowers (N)		Celebrity Circus (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)		Primetime: Crime (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Wife Swap (N)		Supernanny (N)		Law & Order (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance The top 16 contestants.				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Vicar of Dibley	Great Lodges-Parks		Nova scienceNOW (N)		Voyages of Discovery		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		Farmer Wants a Wife (N)		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil Looking younger.		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	News (N)	Fortune	The Hour (N)		CBC News: The National		Rogue Waves		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		American Greed		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	European Poker Tour		Soccer UEFA Euro 2008 Semifinal -- Teams TBA.				Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	MLB Baseball Cincinnati Reds at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	Ed's Up	Angry Planet	The Rig: Oil	Man's Work	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks
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	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Scooby-Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	Blade: Trinity ★★ (2004, Horror)		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Smart Cookies	Stuck	Maxed Out	Style by Jury	Stuck
	570	580	29	MM	2008 MuchMusic Video Awards				The Shift		America's Best Dance Crew		
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Death Grip"		The First 48 (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Two Coreys	Two Coreys	Gene Simmons
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	I Misteri di Cascina Vianello (Italian).				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Popaganda		Back In	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Celeb. Rehab
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT30	Shane Yellow	Cheerleader Nation		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Totally "2000"
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "Lethargica"		Da Vinci's Inquest		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love "Viagra Blue"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Literature Alive	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Camera	Mad Men		Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted "Mike" (N)		How to Find a Husband		Trading Spouses		X-Weighted
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "The Bone Yard"		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Mob Stories		NCIS "The Bone Yard"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	Comedy Inc.	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Buy Me	Hid Potential	House Worth?	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	Unsellable	Buy Me	Open House
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Eraser ★★ (1996, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger, James Caan.					Seinfeld	Frasier
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	The Boot	Hip Hop vs. America II		Blackout (2007, Drama) Zoe Saldana, Sean Blakemore.				Movie Special
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Action"		Supernatural (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	MTV e2	Cribs	4REAL	Next	The Real World		The Real World		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	TV Made, Do It	ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		Challenge
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Sorry!	No Place Like	Jeeves and Wooster		Rabbit Fall	Get-Famously	Side Effects
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Design	In Fashion	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Marché	Poule-oeufs or	Les Denis Drolet Au Pays des		Esprits criminels (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures	Juste pour rire	Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		Imperium: The Rise and Fall of an Empire Rome.				Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	Touch & Go ★★ (2003, Comedy-Drama) Jeff Douglas.				The Prestige ★★★ (2006, Drama) Hugh Jackman.				Little Children
	305	612	306	PIX	Felicia's Journey ★★★ (1999, Drama) Bob Hoskins.				The Matrix ★★★ (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne.				

critics' corner

Supernatural
"Fairy tales can come true; it can happen to you" ... but let's hope they don't involve murder. In the episode "Bedtime Stories," Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles) are investigating a series of killings that are taking the form of "Snow White," "Little Red Riding Hood" and similar stories. Sam also has a tense encounter with the Crossroad Demon (Sandra McCoy). 10 PM on SPC

Corner Gas
Aren't they a tad too big to fit in their childhood treehouse? Apparently size doesn't matter when Brent and Hank (Brent Butt, Fred Ewanuick) find their old treehouse and challenge the current young occupants for possession. Elsewhere, Wanda (Nancy Robertson) makes a jailbreak, Lacey (Gabrielle Miller) tries her hand at martial arts, and Oscar (Eric Peterson) is oblivious to an old friend's romantic overtures. 11:30 AM on COM

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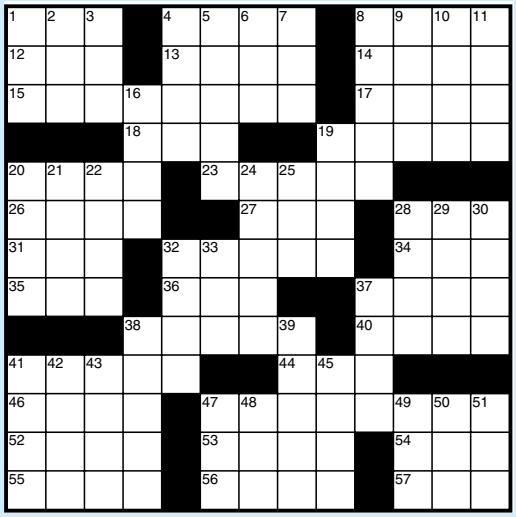


down »

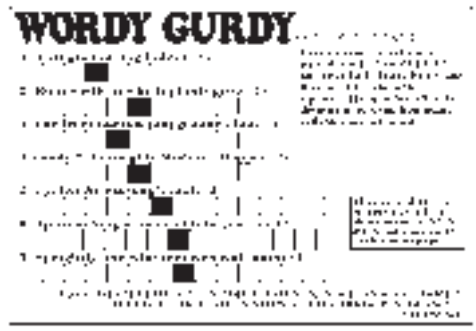
1 Lone Star guy
2 Pay dirt
3 Put a dent in
4 Long dress
5 Even up
6 Woosnam of golf
7 Burrow
8 Fake
9 Verdi opus
10 Plumbing problem
11 Thrilled
16 Human eater
19 "— cost you!"
20 Toolbox item
21 Fix typos
22 Swit co-star
24 Trojan War story
25 Old curse word
28 Coffee, in slang
29 Internet fan
30 Nimble
32 Suggestion box opening
33 Bam!
37 Part of A.M.
38 Rusted-out ships
39 Adventure tales
41 Blow hard
42 Soprano's solo
43 Ice cream treat
45 Cheer on
47 Ray gun blast
48 Coast Guard off.
49 They prosecute perps
50 Freud, to himself
51 Society column word

across »

1 Back-fence yowler
4 Mansion staffer
8 Walks barefoot
12 Diamond stat
13 Tien Shan mountains
14 Add staff
15 Copying
17 Valhalla host
18 Rock-band booking
19 Not relevant
20 Misgiving
23 Super
26 Groundless
27 Mae West role
28 Legal right
31 Casserole cover
32 Sales pitch
34 Poisonous snake
35 Sweater letter
36 Hawaii's Mauna —
37 Say decidedly
38 Cowpoke's greeting
40 Not any
41 Full range
44 Wall hanging
46 Siberian river
47 Focused (2 wds.)
52 Soft fabric
53 Cato's year
54 Playing card
55 Does lacework
56 Attention getter
57 That woman

previous answer

P	A	T		B	O	N	N		R	O	D	E
A	S	H		O	B	O	E		I	V	E	S
L	E	I		D	I	S	P	O	S	A	L	S
M	A	R	E	S		H	A	W	K			
		S	H		G	E	L		I	S	L	A
R	A	T		H	I	S		C	E	C	I	L
I	L		E	O	N		F	O	R		V	U
T	E	A	S	E		R	A	G		G	E	M
Z	E	S	T		G	E	T		I	A		
			A	T	O	M		F	O	L	K	S
V	E	N	T	I	L	A	T	E		L	E	A
A	L	O	E		F	I	A	T		O	P	T
N	I	B	S		S	L	O	E		P	I	E



HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
Speedy thoughts will give you a chance to catch up. Tell people if you're uncertain about something. Juggle around with a work situation.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
Somebody will comment on a family decision. Check out holistic medicine. Important messages will make you change your plans.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Friends will squirm over money issues. Your idealism will bring joy. Find a private place to work, away from prying eyes.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
A powerful person may not have your best interests at heart. You may have to work overtime. Terminate unprofitable associations.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
Show by your kindness that you've earned respect. Someone's sincerity will be unpleasant. An oddball's ploy raises eyebrows.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
A new object will be disappointing. Get away from your usual environment. A sweetheart will surrender to your touch.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
A friend's scheme will boost your bliss. Stand back when trouble walks in the door. Taking charge will cause a predicament.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Save time by understanding complications. Think hard before implementing a harsh plan. Run as wild and as free as you can.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
You want to be taken care of for a change. Ask for assistance in an unstable situation. Find your way with somebody's help.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Brace yourself for a financial discussion. Your friends may want to gossip. Be more sophisticated if you want to appeal to the public.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
There will be a sudden insight into a lost hope. Any problems that you are facing will be overcome. Tears of joy will fall.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Avoid using logic in a debate. An unfamiliar woman makes a serious effort to work wonders.

AVATAR VENUS

	4		2		3		7	
		9	8		6	2		
7								3
		3		4		9		
5								1
		4		8		6		
9								6
		2	6		5	7		
	8		1		7		3	

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

9	5	4	8	2	6	1	7	3
3	6	2	5	1	7	4	9	8
1	7	8	3	4	9	6	5	2
6	2	1	7	8	3	5	4	9
8	9	7	1	5	4	2	3	6
5	4	3	9	6	2	7	8	1
4	8	5	6	9	1	3	2	7
2	3	6	4	7	8	9	1	5
7	1	9	2	3	5	8	6	4

This Day IN HISTORY

June 25, 1938: Dr. Douglas Hyde is inaugurated the first president of Ireland.

June 25, 1940: France formally surrenders to Nazi Germany.

June 25, 1947: The Diary Of Anne Frank is published.

June 25, 1993: Kim Campbell is chosen as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and becomes the first female prime minister of Canada.

Metro News Services

Toronto weather

The Weather Network
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Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mainly sunny. 28°	80% Thunder-showers. 19°	40% Thunder-showers. 28°/16°	60% Showers. 27°/18°	80% Showers. 26°/16°

Temperature
Normals
High: 25.5°
Low: 13.7°

Records
High: 36.7°/1952
Low: 6.1°/1965

Sunrise: 5:38 a.m.
Sunset: 9:04 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:24 a.m.
Moonset: 12:36 p.m.

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Celebrity Buzz

SEAN GALLUP/ GETTY IMAGES

Paris dismisses puppy demand

Pet: Paris Hilton swears she's no doggy diva, *People.com* reports. In fact, the hotel heiress — who just wrapped her reality show, I Wanna Be Paris's New Best Friend! — took to her blog Monday to refute one tall tale currently circulating.

"I read (that I was) walking by some puppies for sale, and demanding that I be given a Yorkie puppy to be an accessory for a photo shoot," she wrote on her MySpace celebrity blog. (According to the press reports, a Melrose Avenue pet store refused to let her have the animal — making Hilton go "ballistic.")

"I wasn't looking for a new pet. I wasn't even at a photo shoot that day," Hilton insists. "Puppies are not accessories or toys and I love my own pets dearly. I treat them as if they were my children."

Hilton's new reality show includes scenes of a pet adoption shelter, she says, "to spread the word about how these animals need loving owners."

"It is sad that someone felt the need to invent a story about me throwing a fit for a dog that would 'go with my outfit,'" says the former Simple Life star (who's getting serious with boyfriend Benji Madden). "These stories have gotten out of control."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Idol champ gets marriage licence

PEOPLE Second-season American Idol champ Ruben Studdard obtained a marriage licence Monday in Alabama, *People.com* reports.

Studdard, 29, arrived at the Shelby County Probate Office in Birmingham with fiancée Surata Zuri McCants, 30, just before noon, filled out the paperwork and walked away with their licence, a witness says. Studdard is a Birmingham native.

"They looked really happy," says the eyewitness.

There was no immediate word on when they planned to marry.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

people

MOVIES Actress Keira Knightley was happy to film a sex scene for new movie The Edge Of Love — even though the naked romp was written by her mother, *imdb.com* reports. Knightley's mom, Sharman Macdonald, also served as a producer on the film. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Broderick worries son will smoke

ADDICTION Actor Matthew Broderick admits he and wife Sarah Jessica Parker share a hankering for cigarettes — and they may have inadvertently passed on their Achilles' heel to five-year-old son James Wilkie, MSN Entertainment reports.

"I used to smoke cigarettes, and I still do, lately," he fesses up to New York magazine. "I gave that up a long time ago, but every now and then I will fall off for a week."

And, unfortunately, says Broderick, James Wilkie is "already curious. He'll see a cigarette butt and say, 'What is that?'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

controversy

Smith's former lover speaks out

AUCTION Anna Nicole Smith's former lover Larry Birkhead has spoken out in a bid to set the record straight after buying the former Playboy pinup's lingerie at a celebrity auction — and stating it was a keepsake for their one-year-old daughter Dannielynn, *imdb.com* reports.

The photojournalist says his motives were innocent — insisting the lingerie represents a huge part of Smith's life, and says he will pass the garments on to their tot as soon as she is old enough.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity brief

HEALTH Turns out Amy Winehouse's dad may be the one blowing a little smoke these days, E! News Online reports. The singer's rep is saying the 24-year-old does not have emphysema, as her father told Britain's Sunday Mirror over the weekend.

Rather, she has "early signs of what could lead to emphysema," rep Tracey Miller said Monday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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- ❑ THAT MINI SKIRT
- ❑ THOSE SHORT SHORTS
- ☑ ALL OF THE ABOVE

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Celebrity Buzz

Snow swears off dieting

HEALTH Having weathered an eating disorder, Brittany Snow has shelved her personal trainer and sworn off dieting, *People.com* reports.

"Done with the trainer. I cancelled my trainer," the actress, 22, said. "I refuse to do the whole diet, fitness, style thing anymore. I just kind of go and have fun. I know what I like, I know what makes me feel good, and that's just what I do."

Asked how she's staying healthy, Snow says, "I think more than anything, the thing I've learned in being here is that everything else doesn't matter as long as you're taking care of yourself and you're having fun. Just hanging out with my friends and trying to take care of myself, I think that's the biggest thing."

Snow adds, "I go to the gym everyday, I eat really well, I buy dresses by myself. I want to work and be with my friends. That's all I really care about."

Snow told People in 2007 that she had been diagnosed with anorexia, exercise bulimia, depression, and body dysmorphic disorder as a teenager — and had dipped to 85 pounds at one point.

Snow has reportedly credited friend Sophia Bush for helping to coach her on body image issues.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES

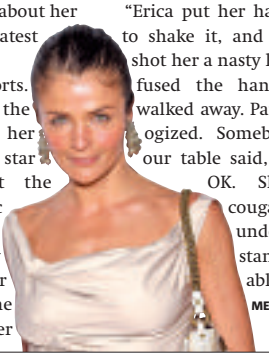
Helena isn't fond of ex's new flame

RUMOUR Helena Christensen isn't wild about her ex-boyfriend's latest squeeze, *PageSix.com* reports.

A source says the model was with her beau, Interpol star Paul Banks, at the Warner Music Group after-party for R.E.M. in New York the other night when she spotted former lover Peter Makebish and his gal pal, model/publicist Erika McGlone.

"Erica put her hand out to shake it, and Helena shot her a nasty look, refused the hand, and walked away. Paul apologized. Somebody at our table said, 'That's OK. She's a cougar. It's understandable.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Madonna, Guy to split after tour?

BREAK-UP Madonna will split from her husband Guy Ritchie at the end of her forthcoming world tour, it has been claimed.

The singer and the film director have reportedly decided to end their seven-year marriage but will not make an announcement until her Sticky and Sweet tour finishes in Mexico on Nov. 29, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

A source close to the couple told Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: "Although the marriage is coming to an end, they don't want to say anything until the tour is over."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

McAvoy refuses to sell products

MOVIES Actor James McAvoy refuses to advertise products because he wants fans to concentrate on his movies — and not be sidetracked by promotions, *imdb.com* reports.

The Atonement star is suspicious of thespians who associate themselves with a certain brand, insisting that actors are not salesmen and he won't compromise his career to make extra money.

He says, "As soon as you start to try and sell people stuff then surely you contravene some contract with the film-going public?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Will Mariah last?

MARRIAGE Mariah Carey's marriage won't last more than six months, according to friends, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 38-year-old singer, who wed rapper Nick Cannon in April, is so demanding her new husband won't be able to cope with her diva-like behaviour.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Michelle mad over Heath's will

DISPUTE Heath Ledger's father, Kim, mother, Emma, and other family members are flying to the United States from Australia for the Dark Knight premiere on July 14 for what some are calling a "sort of tribute" to him — but don't expect to see his ex, Michelle Williams, or daughter, Matilda, *PageSix.com* reports.

An insider said, "Michelle is furious with Heath's family and threatening to boycott the premiere. Matilda is supposed to be the beneficiary of the will, but Michelle has seen nothing from them."

Ledger's will, made out in 2003 before Matilda was born, left everything to his father, mother and sisters.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebration

PARTY American Idol judge Randy Jackson celebrated his 52nd birthday on Saturday — and was given a "barbaric-looking sword" from fellow reality show judge Simon Cowell, *imdb.com* reports.

The former bass player and producer welcomed celebrities including actress Rosario Dawson and dancer Karina Smirnoff to the party at Tao Las Vegas — but was left baffled by the present from the music mogul.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

acting

RISKY ROLE Actress Billie Piper fears her recent role as a high-class prostitute will damage her career prospects in Hollywood — because A-list stars never commit to on-screen nudity, *imdb.com* reports.

The former Dr. Who star plays the lead role in the TV drama The Secret Diary Of A Call Girl, which follows the exploits of an upmarket hooker living in London.

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